

NATION 5
KEJRI: AAP NEEDS TO
TARGET OVER 67 SEATS

MONEY 6
'NO NEW RATION CARD NEEDED
FOR INTER-STATE PORTABILITY'

SPECIAL 7
POWERPUFF
GIRLS

HYDERABAD, SUNDAY DECEMBER 22, 2019; PAGES 12 ₹3

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12

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INDIA LEADS THE WORLD IN INTERNET SHUTDOWNS

As of 2018, India led the world in internet shutdowns, according to a report by internet advocacy group Access Now, accounting for 67% of the total recorded worldwide.



UDDHAV: CMOs TO BE SET UP IN ALL DIVISIONS IN MAHARASHTRA

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday said divisional-level 'chief minister's office' will be set up across the state to ensure people need not have to travel to Mumbai for governmental work.



EXIT POLLS PREDICT JMM-CONG-RJD WILL FORM GOVT IN JHARKHAND

Various exit polls have predicted the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-Congress-Rashtriya Janata Dal alliance to form the government in Jharkhand.



SUNDAR PICHAI GETS WHOPPING \$242 MILLION STOCK PACKAGE

Alphabet and Google CEO Sundar Pichai will take home \$240 million stock package (\$90 million of it tied to Alphabet's performance) on top of a \$2 million annual salary in 2020.



Violence in UP over CAA protests claims 15 lives

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Fresh cases of stone pelting took place in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur and Rampur on Saturday against the Citizenship Amendment Act, while 15 people, including an eight-year-old boy, were killed since Thursday in violent agitations in different parts of the state.



Protests show anger spilling out on the streets: Pawar

PNS ■ PUNE

Targeting the revised Citizenship Amendment Act and National Register for Citizens, Nationalist Congress Party President Sharad Pawar on Saturday said the opposition against the laws is "mass anger

spilling out through protests and processions all over India." He said the people are strongly against these laws and their angst is coming out through nationwide protests in the past one week.

Continued on Page 4

KCR didn't greet counterpart Jagan on latter's birthday

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Is the perceived gap between TS Chief Minister K Chandrababoo Naidu and his Andhra Pradesh counterpart YS Jaganmohan Reddy widening? After their public display of friendship, highlighted through photo-ops and public statements during the inauguration of the Kaleshwaram Project, the bonhomie continued for quite some time.

Continued on Page 4

KCR's cryptic silence on CAA raises eyebrows

K VENKATESHWARLU ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Rashtra Samithi chief and Chief Minister K Chandrababoo Naidu's cryptic silence on the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), amid nationwide public outrage and opposition by at least 10 major parties, has raised eyebrows in several quarters.



This inexplicable silence is agonizing to those who have seen TRS clearly oppose the CAB in Parliament, with the pink party issuing a whip to its MPs.

clear on the issue.

Still, KCR is mum. This inexplicable silence is agonizing to those who have seen TRS clearly oppose the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) in Parliament, with the pink party issuing a whip to its

MPs. Besides, KCR is also not allowing the opposition parties to take up rallies and dharnas, with the authorities imposing prohibitory orders under section 144 of Cr PC in Hyderabad city.

Continued on Page 2

Regulatory blues keep 5G out of TS

Jayesh says there is very little which states can do, expect wait and watch

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Centre may have deliberately adopted a go-slow policy with regard to the roll-out of 5G in view of critical security concerns over its potential to open national networks up to cyber attacks, with international experts suggesting that a vendor for all or part of a 5G network will have the frightening ability to disrupt the operation of the entire network.



Principal Secretary Jayesh Ranjan speaking at the conference on '5G - The Catalyst to Digital Revolution in India' organised by FTCCI

Saturday when he observed that the delay in rollout of 5G is a 'clear case where regulation couldn't keep the pace' with technology. He said, "In fact all the telecom operators Airtel,

Vodafone, BSNL and Jio, each of them have tied up with a solution provider, they are all ready, but waiting for regulation.

Continued on Page 4

5G and security concerns

HYDERABAD In the US as well as in many European countries, most of the policymakers are agreed that whereas the battle over 4G was essentially commercial, focusing on job creation and profits; the raging debate over 5G rollout is about geopolitics, technological leadership, and national security.

Constables suspended for obscene remarks on Jamia students

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Two police constables belonging to Hyderabad City Police were suspended on Saturday for posting obscene comments against two female Jamia Millia University students in a private WhatsApp group.

The constables, identified as Pankaj Kumar and Mohammed, are attached to Nampally police and Afzalgunj police respectively.

In a screenshot of the WhatsApp chat that has gone viral on social media, Pankaj Kumar is seen commenting against a poster of Ladeeda Farzana and Aysha Renna, the two female faces of the Jamia student protests.

This incident comes at a time when Ladeeda Farzana and Aysha Renna addressed a public meeting at Darussalam on Saturday. The images and videos of both of the students protesting and standing up to the might and brutality of the Delhi

From the screenshot, it became clear that the messages had been sent at 1.32 am on December 21, in a group named 'Amberpet PTC'

police had gone viral on social media.

From the screenshot, it became clear that the messages had been sent at 1.32 am on December 21, in a group named 'Amberpet PTC'.

The DCP of Central Zone, Hyderabad, P. Vishwa Prasad, said that the matter was under investigation. "We are trying to verify this information. As of now, we know that the police constable had posted these messages in a private WhatsApp group. Someone had taken a screenshot of that private communication and posted it on Twitter," he said.

Continued on Page 4

RPF cop saves woman from getting run over by train

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A woman passenger, who slipped into the gap between the platform and the track while trying to board a running train at the Secunderabad Railway Station here, had a lucky escape, thanks to an alert policeman who pulled her to safety.

Head constable of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) Shafiquddin noticed the woman slide between the train and the platform and pulled her towards the platform side.

A CCTV footage shows the RPF policeman pulling the woman onto the platform while the train moved on.

His (Shafiquddin) act of alertness and swift action saved the passenger from getting run over. Railway officials complimented him, "a press release from South Central Railway said here on Saturday.

The incident happened on December 18 when the woman passenger was trying to board the S12 coach, the release said.

CITIZENSHIP ACT

BJP to contact over 3 cr families, hold rallies across country in next 10 days

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday announced a mass contact programme to expose opposition parties' "lies" and apprise people of the details of the amended citizenship law to assure them that it is not against existing citizens.

The decision was taken in a meeting chaired by BJP working president J P Nadda and convened to formulate the



BJP's Bhopendra Yadav said the party will contact more than 3 crore families, organise rallies in every district and hold over 250 press conferences across India

party's strategy over the issue amid protests in various parts

of the country against the new provision in the Citizenship

Act and the proposed creation of a National Register of Citizens.

Party general secretary Bhopendra Yadav told reporters that the BJP within next 10 days will contact more than three crore families, organise rally in every district and hold over 250 press conferences across the country to inform masses about the new law.

Continued on Page 2

HC orders re-post mortem of bodies 'Disha' case accused

TS Govt asked to submit report by Monday

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court on Saturday passed important orders with regard to the dead bodies of the four accused in the sensational Disha murder case that rocked the entire country. It directed the state government to hold re-post mortem on the dead bodies of the accused by a team of doctors from the Forensic Science Department from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi. It also asked the state government to



It directed the state government to hold re-post mortem on the dead bodies of the accused by a team of doctors from the Forensic Science Department from the AIIMS in Delhi

video-graph the entire process. The court has said that the state government should submit its report to the court by Monday evening.

The HC asked the state gov-

ernment to hand over the dead bodies of the accused to their family members after the completion of the re-post mortem.

Continued on Page 4

Devotee offers Rs 1 cr to Lord Balaji

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

A devotee from Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh donated Rs 1 crore to the famous temple of Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala Hills, near here, on Saturday. The devotee requested the temple authorities to use the fund for its pilgrims free meal trust called Sri Venkateswara Anna Prasada Trust, a temple official said.

The trust offers about one lakh meals daily to the visiting devotees, the official said. The donor, who did not wish to be named, handed over the DD for the amount through a saint Swaroopanandendra.

Over 1,100 academicians, scholars release statement backing CAA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 1,100 academicians and research scholars from various universities across India and abroad as well as prominent persons released a statement in support of the amended Citizenship Act on Saturday.

The signatories to the statement include Rajya Sabha member Swapan Dasgupta, Shishir Bajoria, Chairman, IIM Shillong, Sunaina Singh, Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University, JNU professor Anul Hasan, Abhijit Iyer-Mitra, Senior



Fellow, Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies and journalist Kanchan Gupta.

The statement comes in the midst of countrywide protests

against the new citizenship law. Students from various universities have also joined the agitation.

Continued on Page 2



'NRC, CAA ploy to divert people's attention from eco slump'



Trump signs \$1.4 tn in spending, avoids shutdown



Ruler: Strictly for Fans



'ALL AND SUNDRY'

Capitals can't be built or shifted on personal whims

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Margashirsha & Krishna Paksha

Panchangam

Tithi: Ekadashi: 03:22 pm

Nakshatram: Swati 06:38 pm

Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start any important work)

Rahukalam: 04:21 pm - 05:43 pm

Yamagandam: 12:14 pm - 01:36 pm

Variyam: 12:01 am - 01:33 am

Gulika: 02:59 pm - 04:21 pm

Good Time: (to start any important work)

Amritakalam: 10:16 am - 11:47 pm

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:52 am - 12:36 pm

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Clear with periodic clouds

Temp: 29/17

Humidity: 70%

Sunrise: 06:41

Sunset: 05:47

Current Weather Conditions

Updated December 21, 2019 5:00 PM

'ALL AND SUNDRY'

# Capitals can't be built or shifted on personal whims

Finally, Jagannathan Reddy is having his way for building three new capitals for Andhra Pradesh at Visakhapatnam, Amaravati and Kurnool with each serving a different purpose. In reversing the ambitious plans of his predecessor N Chandrababu Naidu to build a megapolis at Amaravati, Jagan is aiming to put his solid stamp on Andhra's future and simultaneously axe the TDP president's socio-political base in Krishna and Guntur districts. The triple-capital recommendation of the G N Rao Committee, which Jagan knew in advance and whose broad contours he disclosed in the Assembly, has plunged Andhra into confusion and laid the foundation for further delay in building the capital. The com-

mittee picked up the presently irrelevant ideas from the mothballed report of K C Sivaramakrishnan opposing a greenfield capital city and from the 92-year-old Sribagh Pact. Under this agreement, if the High Court were to set up in coastal Andhra, the capital would be located in Rayalaseema. Indeed, Kurnool became Andhra's capital after it was hived off from the erstwhile composite Madras State and Guntur became the seat of the High Court. Neither city flourished because the capital shifted to Hyderabad three years later in 1956 once the erstwhile Hyderabad State and Andhra were merged. How Kurnool will prosper now with a truncated High Court with benches in Amaravati and Vizag defies understanding. Capitals cannot be built or shifted on the whims of a sin-

**The former began building a grandiose capital spread over 33,000 acres and costing thousands of crores, while Jagan wants three small capitals that would facilitate "decentralised development of the State"**

gle leader, be it Chandrababu Naidu or Jagannathan Reddy, for the simple reason that they cost a lot of money. The former began building a grandiose capital spread over 33,000 acres and costing thousands of crores, while Jagan wants three small capitals that would facilitate "decentralised development of the State". The latter is a rather naïve formulation because decentralisation does not happen simply by having multiple capitals. Even the four commissionerates proposed by the

GN Rao panel are a poor imitation of the erstwhile Regional Planning Boards which served no purpose beyond rehabilitating defeated and disgruntled politicians. What we need are micro-level administrative units which N. T. Rama Rao created decades ago by setting up revenue mandals. The present regime seems intent on dispossessing TDP leaders of land they acquired through irregular means in and around Amaravati. While none would condone 'insider trading' by the cohorts of



S NAGESH KUMAR  
Former Resident Editor,  
The Hindu

Naidu, this could be tackled through the sky-high powers that Government enjoys, instead of scrapping the core capital concept. Telugu Desam Party has failed to effectively rebut the charges of insider trading, purchase of prime land by Heritage Foods,

Naidu's son Nara Lokesh and their relatives. Still, Jagan may be throwing the baby out with the bathwater considering that Rs. 5,860 crore has already been sunk into Amaravati. The TDP leaders' irregularities are also no justification for leaving high and dry the genuine farmers who had voluntarily surrendered land in anticipation of windfall returns. Jagan may be right in arguing that the huge amount of money required for a mega capital could be better spent on priority sectors like irrigation and health. However, where is the guarantee that the three capitals, their attendant infrastructure and logistical expenses of shifting bureaucrats and Ministers every few months will cost any less? The Government put forth a weak argument and even tout-

depending on his native place. Government is a continuous process and new regimes can make tectonic shifts in policies only at the risk of slowing down the pace of development. Instead, they must come up with new ideas in new spheres and not just undo existing ones. The High Court and the judiciary complex at Kurnool cannot generate significant economic productivity nor can the Legislature at Amaravati. Andhra has the distinction of having had four capitals so far - Madras, Kurnool, Hyderabad and Amaravati. It will create an unwanted record by having a few more capitals because Naidu did not have the savvy to wait out the 10-year window to continue the capital in Hyderabad and Jagan lacked patience. Now, everyone will have to pay the price.

# Realty business in Yadadri sees unprecedented boom

PNS ■ BHONGIR

Real estate sector in surrounding areas of Yadadri temple witnessed some significant developments as the state government gives facelift to the ancient temple town of Yadadri.

Lands which are hitherto being sold at Rs 2 lakh to 3 lakh an acre are being sold at Rs 1 crore an acre. This is attributed to widening of the national highway, industrial development, access to the Kaleswaram project water and many others.

After the IT corridor in Hyderabad, many investors are keen to invest their money in real estate business in and around Yadadri. The government has also planned to develop an industrial corridor along the Hyderabad-Warangal highway.

Many real estate ventures mushroomed in the region. Those keen to adopt a wait and watch attitude are investing in the region if the increase in residential plots in areas around Outer Ring Road (ORR) is any indication.

Strategic location of Yadadri mid-way either to Hyderabad or Warangal is one of the



**After the IT Corridor in Hyderabad, many investors are keen to invest their money in real estate in Yadadri. The government has also planned to develop an Industrial Corridor along Hyderabad-Warangal highway**

additional factors for the boom in real estate.

According to experts, the development of Warangal is going to be on a par with that of Hyderabad in the near future.

As Chief Minister K Chandrababu Naidu gives top priority to development of Warangal after Hyderabad, as such there is lot of scope for industrial development of Warangal, it is felt.

The government has already evolved plans for development of IT in the district. It also kicked off plans to set up a mega textile park in the district.

According to officials of industries department, several Korean and Chinese companies are keen to invest in the proposed textile park.

Godavari waters from Kaleswaram project will find their way up to Baswapur near Yadagirigutta. The state government has planned to store water in Baswapur reservoir and supply them to cater drinking water and irrigation needs of people. As such, the people feel that there will be no drinking water problem in Yadagirigutta region and hence are making a beeline to invest

their funds. The Hyderabad-Warangal stretch of the national highway 163 is being developed into a four-lane road.

The road widening works up to Warangal are going to be completed soon. Roads from Yadadri to Keesara and Gajwel are being widened. Along the length of the national highway, an acre costs between Rs 80 lakh and Rs 1 crore. In the HMDA and DTCP approved layouts a square yard costs between Rs 4000 and Rs 8000 as real estate boom would have it.

## BJP to contact over...

Continued from Page 1

The new law seeks to give citizenship to minorities from three neighbouring countries, who arrived in India before December 2014 due to religious persecution.

He also accused opposition parties, especially the Congress, of spreading misinformation in a bid to disturb peace across the country during recent protests which have claimed several lives.

Yadav said the party will also involve beneficiaries of the amended law in its information campaign about the statute.

## 'Complete road works on war footing'

PNS ■ MAHABUNGAR

Excise and Tourism minister V Srinivas Goud inspected a series of development programme works and Mahabubnagar - Jacharla road widening works in Mahabubnagar on Saturday.

The Minister V Srinivas Goud advised the officials concerned to take necessary steps to speed up the road laying and widening works on a war footing basis without compromising on the quality of works.

Later the Minister visited Collectorate in the city and inspected the site proposed for



the vegetarian and non-vegetarian market premises in the town. He said that the market in Mahabubnagar would

remain a model in the state. District and highway officials accompanied the minister during his visit.

## Over 1,100 academicians, scholars release...

Continued from Page 1

**Over 1,000 scholars had signed a petition demanding that the Citizenship Amendment Bill in its current form be withdrawn**

In the statement, the signatories appealed to every section of the society "to exercise restraint and refuse to fall into the trap of propaganda, communalism and anarchism".

"We also note with deep anguish that an atmosphere of fear and paranoia is being created in the country through deliberate obfuscation and fear-mongering, leading to violence in several parts of the country," the statement said.

Two weeks ago, over 1,000 scientists and scholars had signed a petition demanding that the Citizenship Amendment Bill in its current form be withdrawn, with noted academician Pratap Bhanu Mehta saying the legislation will transform India into an "unconstitutional ethnocracy". The petition had

come after the Lok Sabha had passed the bill and before it was passed in the Rajya Sabha.

Later, 600 artists, writers, academicians, former judges and former bureaucrats had urged the government to withdraw the Citizenship Amendment Bill, terming it as "discriminatory, divisive" and violative of the secular principles enshrined in the Constitution.

The signatories to the state-

ment congratulated Parliament for standing up for forgotten minorities, upholding the civilisational ethos of India and providing a haven for those fleeing religious persecution.

The act fulfilled the long-standing demand of providing refuge to persecuted religious minorities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, the statement said.

Ever since the failure of the Liaquat-Nehru Pact of 1950, various leaders and political parties such as the Congress, CPI(M) etc., cutting across the ideological spectrum, had demanded grant of citizenship to religious minorities from Pakistan and Bangladesh, who mostly belonged to the Dalit castes, it added.

"We also note with satisfaction that the concerns of the north-eastern states have been

## Pet dogs come to rescue of injured owner!

PNS ■ PALONCHA

Two canines risked their life to protect their owner from a bear attack that took place in his field in Paloncha rural district on Thursday, according to delayed reports reaching here.

Soon the dogs emerged as heroes in Bhadradi Kothagudem district. Their owner Bakkayya was working in his field in Gangadevipalle mandal on Thursday when a bear attacked him at 9 am inflicting bleeding injuries on his neck and face.

He raised an alarm out of pain before collapsing in the field.

For about half an hour, his pets Jaani and Raju resisted the bear which is more ferocious and wild.

The bear found no match to them and escaped into the jungle.

While Jaani remained at the farm, Raju went into the village and pulled Bakkayya's son Venkateswarlu to the farm. He rushed to the field and found his father lying in a pool of blood. Venkateswarlu rushed his father to the PHC at Ulvanuru.

## FB to stop using cell numbers to recommend friends in 2020

PNS ■ SAN FRANCISCO

Following privacy concerns, social networking giant Facebook is set to stop using phone number of users for recommending friends in 2020.

According to a report, users will soon have "A code sent to their mobile phones when logging in to make access harder for hackers".

The change is part of Facebook's \$5 billion settlement with the US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and will come into effect from next year.

Facebook last year confirmed the use of users' phone number for targeting ads and stopped using members' security cell numbers for advertising in June this year.

In March, the company faced backlash over its secure login process two-factor authentication where it asked users to add cell numbers, which can be

**Facebook last year confirmed the use of users' phone number for targeting ads and stopped using members' security phone numbers for advertising in June this year**

searched by advertisers.

In a statement, Facebook said it has been receiving questions about two-factor authentication and phone number settings on its platform.

Reports emerged this month that Facebook has joined hands

with top retailers who are sending the social networking giant data on what the customers are buying in retail stores. Facebook, in turn, is targeting those customers with specified ads.

Not just online shopping, Facebook is able to track what customers buy in stores and target those customers with ads, according to a report.

Facebook makes almost all its money by selling ads. In the third quarter (July-September) this year, Facebook's revenue was \$17.6 billion and ads contributed a whopping \$17.3 billion of the total revenue.

## MANUU signs MoU with NALSAR varsity

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

City-based Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) and NALSAR University of Law on Saturday signed a memorandum of understanding to develop e-content to produce Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).

MANUU's Instructional Media Centre is providing technical support to NALSAR to produce the audio-visual content for the MOOC programme of NALSAR Universities Human Resource Development Ministry Project, a release said here on Saturday.

The collaboration between the two institutions will help NALSAR varsity to produce MOOC course for law teachers, the release from MANUU said.

## KCR's cryptic silence...

Continued from Page 1

According to political analysts who do not want to be named, KCR is maintaining silence, keeping in view the upcoming Municipal elections. The pink party has satisfied its ally AIMIM by opposing CAB in Parliament.

However, KCR has not yet made any specific statement in this regard, let alone do hungama in the state, unlike in the cases of other states. Analysts say KCR does not want to give

any chance to opposition parties, particularly BJP, as the municipal elections would be held any time in January. The saffron party will have an axe to grind should KCR, yielding to mounting pressure, say clearly that TS would not implement CAA. BJP, being a party with base in urban areas, would be in a position to cash in on TRS' stance on CAA only if KCR makes his stand clear, analysts reasoned. For, people in rural areas may not understand what CAA is all about.

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**  
O/o. Police Department, BSPW & C, Telangana  
**NOTIFICATION**  
Bharosa - Society for Protection of Women & Children, Telangana invites applications from suitable candidates to work for various posts on contractual basis without right of regularization of services etc to work in 'Bharosa - support centre for women & children' at Sangareddy, Khammam, Suryapet and Vikarabad Districts. For all the other details kindly visit <http://www.womensafetywing.telangana.gov.in/>. The last date for submission of applications along with bio data & certificates at their respective Commissioners of Police / District Superintendent of Police Office on or before 05-01-2020 by 5pm. Further it is specifically informed that, the recruitment of persons is for contract period of only one year. It will be extended year by year as per the requirement and budget availability.  
DIPR No. 1143-DPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2019-20  
Sd/- Inspector General of Police, Law & Order & Lic. Women Safety wing, TS.

**CRIME CORNER**

**Task Force nabs two property offenders**

The Commissioner's Task Force, North Zone team nabbed two youngsters, who were involved in property offences and recovered stolen goods from their possession. The arrested were identified as Dara Ashwanth alias Ashu, and Gopi Ashok Naveen Swamy alias Pintu, 19, who were involved in a mobile snatching case at Gopalapuram and an automobile theft case at Chilkalguda. The arrest was made following a complaint received from Gummati Kartek, wherein he stated that on December 15, hours after he came to Hyderabad from his native and reached near Rathifile bus stop road when two men came on a scooter and snatched his mobile phone. "The duo also hotwired and stole a parked scooter, bearing the number AP 10 AX 3371 from a residential area in Chilkalguda. Our officials have verified the CCTV footages at possible places and identified the duo and verified intel with reliable sources to apprehend them on Saturday near Secunderabad Railway Station," said the Task Force officials.

**Couple held for duping people**

Sleuths of the Hyderabad Central Crime Station police arrested a couple working with Universal Islamic Research Centre (UIRC) in Malakpet for duping several investors by assuring them of high profits in essentially 'Ponzi' schemes. The accused collected huge deposits from women to invest their money in the Heera Group and Islamic Public School assuring them 'halal' returns. The duo had reportedly collected Rs 1.5 crore from investors. The accused Siraj-ur-Rahman is the founder member and general secretary of UIRC. He and his wife Bushra Begum allegedly lured investors to invest their funds in the Heera Group companies like Heera Gold, Heera Foodex and Heera Retail and IPS.

**Auto driver commits suicide**

An auto-rickshaw driver from Sultan Shahi allegedly committed suicide at his house on Friday night. The deceased was identified as Bheem Kishan Rao, 40. Rao was living along with his wife and three children in a rented house. On Friday night, he reached home in an inebriated condition and picked up a quarrel with his wife. After the argument, he went into another room and later hanged himself to the ceiling fan using a rope," the police said, adding that kin of Kishan Rao broke open the door to rush him to hospital, but he had already breathed his last by then. The Moghalpura police shifted the body to OGH for autopsy.

**Frankie center booked**

Tibb's Frankie centre at the Miyapur Metro Station has been booked by Legal Metrology Department for not providing bill receipt to the customers and absence of measures on the Frankie pack. Department of Legal metrology have booked them during the course of inspection for contravention of Rule 23(8)(7) of the Legal Metrology (Enforcement) Rules, 2011.

**CYBERABAD POLICE TOPS IN 'OP MUSKAAN-V'**

■ RESCUES 541 CHILDREN COMPRISING 483 BOYS AND 58 GIRLS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Cyberabad Police has topped in the State by rescuing 541 children and also registering maximum number of FIRs (247) during 'Operation Muskaan-V'. The cases were registered with the police under section 374, 75, 79, Juvenile Justice Act 2015 and 14 of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act 2016 of IPC.

In a month, the Cyberabad Police had rescued around 483 boys, 58 girls. On the directions of Ministry of Home Affairs to form teams for Operation Muskaan-V during the month of July 2019, Cyberabad Police had formed teams for Operation Muskaan-V in the nine divisions of Cyberabad.

This year, the police have run a campaign called Operation Mukaan-V across the Cyberabad Commissionerate, during July 2019. All nine teams operated under the leadership of Inspector (W&CSW) Venkat Reddy and supervised by C Anasuya DCP (W&CSW).

During the operation, the trained police teams had been rescuing vulnerable children. Particulars of such identified children have been checked and uploaded in Facial Recognition App. The operating team of police officers were using a new technology of facial recognition application, named DARAPAN. This app was being used to trace the missing children, and those who were working as labour in micro industries, begging and trafficking in the state.



**KEY OBSERVATIONS:**

- Children were made to work from dawn to dusk for more than 12 hours, without break
- They were living in unhygienic condition in small rooms without ventilation
- They were provided no proper diet, a meal of rice and watery dal two times a day
- They were not provided any holiday
- Middlemen paid meager amounts around Rs 10,000/- to the parents of the children and brought them from Bihar, Jharkhand, Odissa, Assam and other States
- The children were suffering from malnutrition, stunted growth and other health issues
- Children working in cotton spinning mill were suffering from bronchitis, covered with fine dust from head to toe
- In some of the industries day time work was being done by adult workers and children were made to work during night

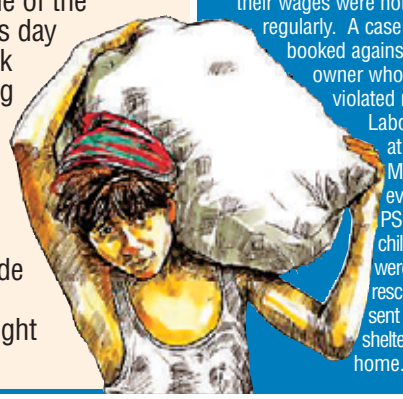
**CRUCIAL RESCUES**

**On 15 July 2019**

around 15 children aged 14 to 17 have been rescued from a spinning mill in Medchal. They are natives of Maharashtra, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Orissa and Assam States. The operation team had registered a case against the management and then rescued the children, later shifted to a shelter home. The team also rescued 10 minor children from Metal Industries in Mailarepally on 16 July.

**On 16 July:**

as part of their duties, Operation Muskaan team, child line team, officials of Labour Department and DCPU raided on Vijaya Vasuni Paper Plastic Company at Kattedan and found six children engaged in collecting plastic papers from machinery releasing heavy heat and hazardous gases. On enquiry with children, it was revealed that they are suffering with breathing / lung problem and their wages were not paid regularly. A case was booked against the owner who violated rules of Labour Act at Mailarepally PS and the children were rescued and sent to shelter home.



**Special trains to clear extra rush**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In order to clear extra rush of passengers, five special trains will be run between Secunderabad - Kakinada town and Machilipatnam - Secunderabad. Train No. 07053 Secunderabad - Kakinada town special train will depart Secunderabad at 20.00 hrs on December 24 and 27 and arrive in Kakinada town at 08.30 hrs the next day.

In the return direction, Train No. 07054 Kakinada town - Secunderabad special train will depart Kakinada town at 20.50 hrs on December 26 and 29 and arrive in Secunderabad at 08.50 hrs the next day.

En route, these special trains will stop at Nalgonda, Miryalaguda, Piduguralla, Guntur, Vijayawada, Gudur, Kalkal, Bhimavaram town, Nidadavolu, Rajahmundry and Samalkot stations in both the directions. These special trains will have AC II Tier, AC III Tier, AC Chair Car, Sleeper Class and General Second Class Coaches. Train No. 07051 Machilipatnam - Secunderabad special train will depart Machilipatnam at 23.15 hrs on December 23.

**Apollo fined Rs 50k for collecting registration fee**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The GST sleuths slapped a fine of Rs 50,000 against Apollo Hospitals-Jubilee Hills branch, as the latter failed to raise invoices for an amount of Rs 200 collected as 'Registration fee' from first-time customers visiting the hospital. The Hyderabad Commissionerate of GST acted upon a complaint filed by Vijay Gopal.

"Six months ago, I had visited Apollo Hospital- Jubilee hills along with my mother for medical consultancy. The desk at the hospital asked me to pay Rs 200 as registration fee for first-time visitors, and this is excluding the Rs 900 consultancy fee. They failed to provide me with a bill on the Rs 200 paid," said Gopal, speaking to the media.

The founder of Forum against corruption, Vijay Gopal filed a complaint with the GST- Hyderabad sleuths. Six months later, the enforcement agency found Apollo Hospital staff guilty. The GST statement said, "You (Apollo Hospital) have admitted that you have not been raising bills/ invoices for the amount of Rs 200 collected as registration fee from customers and that 'henceforth' you will issue GST invoice along with receipt towards the registration charges."

The order also said Apollo Hospital management has violated GST norms. "Not raising an invoice/bill by a registered tax-

**GST sleuths have asked the hospital management to henceforth raise bills for the registered fee collected from patients**

payer amounts to violation of section 31(3) (b) and Central -GST act 2017. This violation attracts penal provision under section 122 (3) of the GST act 2017 and Telangana SGST act 2017. Hence you are liable of paying Rs 50000 (CGST - 25000, SGST- 25,000)".

The GST sleuths have asked the hospital management to raise bills for the registered fee collected from henceforth. However, it is to note that, besides Apollo, many other private hospitals, including Yashoda, have been collecting registration fee of Rs 200 from first-time visitors, besides high consultancy fee. Many have questioned the hospital desk in this regard to these unfair practices.

"The GST sleuths responded six months after I registered the complaint. I request the officials to act as quick as possible in the interest of the public. There is no element called registered charge fee; it is an unfair practice of the hospital," concluded Gopal.

**ATA's education seminar tomorrow**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A delegation of American Telugu Association (ATA) met Prof T Papi Reddy, chairman, TSICHE, Prof R Limbadri, Prof Venkata Ramana, vice chairman, TSICHE, here on Saturday and briefed them about the different activities being undertaken by the association in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. It is planning to hold a series of activities in TS and AP. Meanwhile, the ATA, in association with TSICHE will organise a half-day educational seminar at Muffakham Jah College of Engineering & Technology, Banjara Hills on Monday.



Principal Secretary Arvind Kumar and other officials inspecting the restoration works at Mozamjahi Market on Saturday

**Officials told to speed up works on Mozamjahi Market**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Principal Secretary Arvind Kumar on Saturday inspected the Mozamjahi Market modernisation works along with the GHMC zonal commissioner Musharaf and asked the officials executing the works to complete the first phase of the works within the stipulated time.

It may be recalled that the state government bent on modernising the market realising the heritage value of the structure. Officials told Arvind Kumar that the first phase of the works is nearing completion.

The Principal Secretary went round the market and took stock of the progress achieved so far and asked the officials to ensure that footpath all round the corridors should

**The Principal Secretary went round the market and took stock of the progress achieved so far and asked the officials to ensure that footpath all round the corridors should be laid in a uniform manner.**

The shifting of lime mortar unit inside the market should be immediately shifted, he said. Flooring of the entire area, restoration of heritage taps, street furniture and lighting should be taken up at the earliest, he added. Water board officials informed that the water and sewerage works are completed.

When the officials informed the Principal Secretary that designs for the signages are

ready, he asked them to include shop numbering also as part of signages so that they have a uniform pattern. A stone encryption outside the market explaining the history of the market should be put up, he said. Construction of modern mutton market should be taken up incorporating all the suggestions of the veterinary officials and including the modern requirements like refrigerators, blow air etc, he said.

**Students stage protest during CP's visit**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Several female students of Osmania University staged a protest against women's safety when the Commissioner of Hyderabad City Police visited the campus on Saturday. The protest was staged against the rising atrocities on women in the state. Anjani Kumar, the Hyderabad Police Commissioner, arrived at OU to interact with the students on topics related to women's safety in the city.

The protest was organised under the leadership of Madiga Students' Federation (MSF), along with the support from other organizations.

Anjani Kumar spoke to them and said that every person needs to change and students should inculcate good qualities to excel in their career in future. He urged them to stay away from evil and tread the right path.

The meeting was held in the Arts College building. M Ramesh, Joint Commissioner of Police (East), Gopal Reddy, Registrar, OU and other police officials attended the meeting.



**Two more held in IMS scam**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) probing the Insurance Medical Services (IMS) scam, arrested two more persons on Friday for their alleged involvement in the case. With this, the number of persons arrested in the case so far has gone up to 21. Pandiri Bhoopal Reddy of Vishal Enterprise and Reddymalli Nagender Reddy of Vasudha Marketing, both from Secunderabad, were those arrested on Friday following allegations of conspiracy in the scam.

Both Bhoopal Reddy and Nagender Reddy assisted two arrested persons Pandiri Rajeswar Reddy and Pandiri Srinivas Reddy of Teja Pharma in opening shell companies and claimed bills from the IMS, officials said, adding that the entire conspiracy was hatched in collusion with suspended IMS Director Ch Devika Rani and Pharmacist K Nagalakshmi.

Bhoopal Reddy and Nagender Reddy assisted Rajeswar Reddy and Srinivas Reddy in preparing quotations for more than 25 pharma distribution agencies which are shell companies in Teja Pharma office at Tadband in Secunderabad. Both of them used to hand over all the filled in quotations to Nagalakshmi along with a set of signed quotations and a soft copy, officials said.

They also allegedly purchased agricultural land at Bhiknoor village in Kamareddy district along with Rajeswar Reddy and Srinivas Reddy. Bhoopal Reddy and Nagender Reddy were lodged in Chanchalguda prison.

**POMP AND SPLENDOUR**



Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhaduria, Chief of the Air Staff, inspecting the Combined Graduation Parade held at Air Force Academy, Dundigal on Saturday

**'UTS' comes in handy to book unreserved tickets**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Commuters of South Central Railway (SCR) are opting towards booking unreserved tickets through UTS (unreserved ticketing system) mobile application. As per the information provided by the SCR officials, around 75,000-80,000 passengers purchase the unreserved tickets through the online application every day.

According to an official, "In total, 10.5 lakh passengers commute of which around 1.75 lakh comes under reserved segment where there is no need of UTS. Around 8.75 lakh travelled in unreserved of which about 8 per cent bookings are happening



using UTS app". UTS mobile app by SCR enables the passengers to purchase unreserved/platform/season ticket at ease. With the App,

a passenger need not stand in the queue at the booking windows and can book unreserved tickets from a distance within 5 KM from the station and with-

**According to the information provided by South Central Railway officials, around 75,000-80,000 passengers purchase unreserved tickets through the online application every day**

in a distance of 2 KM in case of a platform ticket.

At Secunderabad station alone, about 15,000 people are using UTS mobile app every day to do bookings. Official stated that tech savvy people from Hyderabad, Secunderabad and those using MMTS are predominant users of the app. Meanwhile, G John

Prasad, Principal Chief Commercial Manager (PCCM), South Central Railway conducted a workshop for employees in order to expand its services and also to familiarize the ticket booking and ticket checking staff to enhance their understanding on the working procedure of UTS on mobile App.

**Cops issue guidelines for NY revelry**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Police officials of Rachakonda and Cyberabad have issued advisories to the hotels, resorts and pubs in their commissionerate to follow during the upcoming New Year celebrations. While the police does not want to interfere in the festive mood of the citizens on the eve of new years, all are requested to follow certain guidelines/restrictions during celebrations, said the Rachakonda Police Commissioner, Mahesh Bhagwat.

Most star hotels fall in the limits of LB Nagar zone, Malkajigiri zone and Yadadri zone and most of the resorts

and farmhouses fall under L.B.Nagar and Yadadri Zone. In the recent past, there are allegations that star hotels and resorts are encouraging some illegal activities and hence, we have issued orders for them to follow during the year end" said the official. The establishments are asked not to function beyond closing time, not to have hookah served, avoid drugs consumption and rave parties in resorts. A prior permission of CP Rachakonda in writing is to be taken to conduct parties. Permission would be granted on a case-to-case basis, after examining each application. Last date for submission of application is upto

24.12.2019. Cyberabad Police conducted a meeting on Saturday with the bars and restaurants, resorts, convention centres, pubs, hotels and event organisers regarding the New Year celebrations. Cyberabad CP appealed the public to celebrate incident free and accident New Year 2020. Cyberabad CP VC Sajjanar IPS, along with the Madhapur DCP A Venkateshwar Rao IPS, Shamshabad DCP N Prakash Reddy, IPS, Balanagar DCP Padmaja, Cyberabad Traffic DCP SM Vijaykumar, IPS., Admin ADCP Lavanya NJP, Traffic ADCP Amarnath Reddy, SOT DCP Sandeep participated in the meeting.

CAPSULE

Jagga to intensify protest over Godavari water

HYDERABAD: Sangareddy Congress MLA T Jagga Reddy warned that he would intensify protest over releasing Godavari water to Sangareddy. Jagga Reddy alleged that Finance Minister T Harish Rao is not a public leader. He won the elections and became a Minister only with the support of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, MLA alleged. "I will obstruct Harish Rao and other TRS MLAs in Sangareddy on January 2," Jagga Reddy said. He demanded the government to take a decision before December 31 over releasing Godavari water to Sangareddy. He warned that he would release an action plan to take up a movement demanding Godavari waters to Sangareddy. "I don't know if Sangareddy was included in Mission Bhagiratha scheme," he said. He said that Sangareddy is facing severe water crisis due to the diversion of Singur dam water to other places. The ground water levels also dipped. "The elected TRS MP Kotla Prabhakar Reddy is not taking care of issue," he alleged.

Karimnagar to get tool design extension centre

HYDERABAD: Central Institute of Tool Design Extension Centre, a training centre, has been sanctioned for the district. In order to give training to engineering, polytechnic and ITI students in industrial tools design, Central Government has decided to establish the centre in the district at a cost of Rs 20 crore. In this regard, Collector K Shashanka conducted a meeting with the officials of Hyderabad Central Institute of Tool Design Centre (HCITDC), District Industrial Centre and Markfed, at his chamber here on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, Collector said engineering, polytechnic and ITI students would be given training in industrial tools design. Besides industrial development, it would help the students to develop technical skills in tools design, he said. Central Government has instructed him to hand over required vacant buildings to HCITDC to run the centre. They were searching for vacant buildings with 20,000 to 30,000 sq ft area. He said suitable building will be identified within three to four days. Assistant Directors, HCITDC, Udhay and S Ramakrishna, Industrial Promotion Officer, District Industrial Centre, Madhulatha and Managing Director, Markfed, Shyam were present. Collector K Shashanka conducting meeting with industrial and market officials in Karimnagar on Friday.

Cong finds fault with BJP senior leaders' comments

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Congress leaders find faults with Union Ministers for comments against Congress Party over Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

The leaders said that it is shameful on the part of Union Ministers Amith Shah, G Kishan Reddy and Nirmala Seetharaman for making comments against Congress in regard to CAA even after Congress leaders made it clear by stating that the Congress is not against giving citizenship to the refugees, but is against giving citizenship on the basis of religion.

In a meeting organised at Gandhi Bhavan on Saturday, the TPCC official spokesperson G Niranjana alleged that the behavior of BJP leaders is harmful to the integrity of nation. The BJP leaders are speaking in a different after the opposition from the people on CAA. Niranjana said, "BJP could have prepared the Bill without mentioning religions. No Indian Hindu would hate any other religion. BJP led NDA government had brought CAA prior to implement NRC", he alleged. Senior leader V Hanumantha Rao alleged that the Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao is deceiving Muslims as well as SCs. He is not clearing his stand on CAA though the BJP ally Bihar's Chief Minister Nitish Kumar clearly stated that he will not implement NRC in his state, he asked. Hanumantha Rao said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is trying to make India as Hindu nation. Meanwhile, in another meeting organised at Gandhi Bhavan on Saturday, Hanumantha Rao found fault with the Chief Minister for keeping Ambedkar statue in Police Station though it was meant to be erected at Punjagutta junction



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Not many TPCC leaders join protest against CAA

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Congress leaders announced a week long programmes across the state on various issues. On Saturday, the minority cell of the party organised a protest at Indira Park opposing the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

Not many senior leaders joined the protest except Mohammed Shabbir Ali and Anjan Kumar Yadav. The protest did not evoke much response due to the absence of leaders. The party leaders failed to organise protests even in districts against CAA and state government as announced by the TPCC chief N Uttam Kumar Reddy after the TPCC's extended core committee meeting held on December 19.

The leaders in the party are scared to stage protests against CAA. Some Congress leaders on condition of anonymity stated that protests against CAA may boomerang the party as TRS is staying silent on CAA strategically.

A senior leader on condition of anonymity made it clear that the AIMIM opposing CAA and BJP is supporting CAA in the state. "Why should Congress stage protests against CAA in the state? Protests may harm the party's interests in the ensuing Municipal elections, which may be announced at any time. If protested in regard to CAA, we have to face the music in municipal elections and hence we did not organise any protest today," the leader said. Finding fault with the state party leadership, the senior leader suggested the party to concentrate on state issues instead of concentrating on national issues, which are irrelevant to the state. On the other hand, the TPCC Chief N Uttam Kumar Reddy is busy with the Parliament Standing Committee on Energy, which is in Hyderabad city, as its member.



TPCC leaders at Indira Park opposing the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) on Saturday.

Thousands throng AIMIM hqs oppose CAA, NRC

HYDERABAD: Thousands of people thronged the AIMIM headquarters 'Darussalam' here on Saturday night for the public meeting to protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act and the National Register of Citizens. The meeting organised by United Muslim Action Committee, an umbrella of various Muslim groups, began with the national anthem. All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) President and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi and other leaders stood on the dais while many among the audience waved the national flag as the national anthem was recited. The sprawling ground was filled to its capacity and the participants spilled over on to the surrounding roads to hear the speakers. Owaisi, religious scholars and leaders of various groups including the Jamaat-e-Islami will be addressing the meeting. Ladeeda Sakhaloon Farzana and Aysha Renna, the students of Jamia Millia Islamia, who became the face of anti-CAA protests, will also address the meeting, the biggest gathering in Hyderabad so far. The organisers have also invited Aman Wadud, a human rights lawyer from Assam, to address the meeting.

READY FOR DISTRIBUTION



Ministers Puvvada Ajay and Errabelli Dayakar Rao distributed these tractors to the Gram Panchayats in Bhadradi Kothagudem district on Saturday

TSPSC urged to release job notifications

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Congress and unemployed JAC leaders demanded the Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC) to release job notifications without delaying further by including the newly-formed three districts to overcome zonal problems.

TPCC general secretary Koturi Manavatha Roy and leaders of unemployed JAC have submitted a memorandum to the TSPSC chairman Ghanta Chakrapani. They asked the state to initiate steps in regard to releasing the notifications.

Regulatory blues keep 5G out of TS...

Continued from Page 1

Unfortunately the regulatory authority is completely in the hands of the Government of India; there is very little which states can do, expect wait and watch. He was speaking at Conference on 5G - The Catalyst to Digital Revolution in India organized by FTCCI. Jayesh added that the 5G technology was not something new, but absolutely functioning, with use cases being well established. Ruining delay, Jayesh said, "The world is in one direction; unfortunately our regulatory hurdles are kind of pulling us back. If you want to benefit from revolutionary technology like 5G, we should make sure the hurdles are cleared, map is streamlined and rollout is fast. On the one hand, we have national campaign Digital India; and, on the other hand, we don't create enable circumstances to reach goals and objectives of digital India."

5 G and security concerns

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Central to this transnational controversy is the question: Should US and European mobile operators buy equipment from Huawei? To answer this question, nations will have to gingerly balance their national security interests with low-priced equipment offered by Huawei and eagerly sought out by private players purely on the strength of promise of the Chinese telecom giant that nobody has been able to prove the charge it is indulging in backdoor espionage. Although many governments have differing views, they still do not want to exclude Huawei. Each national government regards lower equipment prices for its national telecoms operator as more important than supporting European champions in 5G technology, be it Nokia or Ericsson.

make sure the hurdles are cleared, map is streamlined and rollout is fast. On the one hand, we have national campaign Digital India; and, on the other hand, we don't create enable circumstances to reach goals and objectives of digital India."

HC orders re-post mortem of bodies...

Continued from Page 1

It also asked the state government to submit the report consisting of the relevant evidence of the re-post mortem in sealed cover to the court. The court has directed the Special Investigation Team appointed by the state government to preserve evidence of weapons used by the police and those allegedly used by the accused during the course of encounter and the bullets used and the log reports containing the details of the vehicles used and the details of the number of police personnel who took part in the encounter.

A division bench of the high court, comprising the Chief Justice of the state Justice RS Chauhan and Justice A. Abhishek Reddy, passed these orders, while dealing with a batch of PIL petitions filed by different persons seeking action against the police who had carried the encounter of the four accused at Chatanpally of Shadnagar mandal.

Constables suspended for obscene...

Continued from Page 1

Mohammed Ahmed Vindhani, a social worker from Hyderabad, who had contacted the constable, said, "I asked him whether that image was edited. He accepted that he wrote that message, and said he was in deep sleep while sending it." The DCP added, "Once the investigation is completed and all details are verified, definitely criminal action will be taken. Although he has not posted this as city police, it is a bad post all the same. The city police do not subscribe to such views."



15 dead in violence in UP over CAA protests...

Continued from Page 1

Police had to lob tear gas shells and use canes to chase them away, and fire tenders were rushed to control the flame.

Samajwadi Party MLA Amitabh Bajpai and former MLA and SP leader Kamlesh Tewari have been arrested as a precautionary measure and their vehicles have also been seized.

Clashes broke out in Rampur between anti-CAA protesters and police on Saturday, resulting in injuries to several people, including policemen, officials said. Around 400 to 500 people gathered here to protest against the amended Citizenship Act amid a bandh call and five of



them were taken into preventive custody, they said. Five protesters were hospitalised and the condition of one of them was stated to be critical, District

dren aged between 12 and 18 years," he said. Another dozen protesters suffered minor injuries due to tear gas shelling by the police, Singh said.

The DM suspected the involvement of non-locals in the protest and said, "Police did not open fire anywhere, yet one protester had a gunshot injury."

A bandh call was given by the anti-CAA protesters in Rampur on Saturday even as section 144 of the CrPc, which bars assembly of people, is in force in the region and the internet remains suspended.

After a lull of four days, AMU campus again witnessed protests on Saturday with hundreds of AMU non-teaching

staff joining hands with AMU teachers' association, protesting against the CAA and "police atrocities" against the agitators in various parts of the state on Friday. SSP Aligarh Ashok Kulhari said protests have been peaceful and shah mufti Khalid Hamid played an important role in diffusing tension.

AMU vice chancellor Prof Tariq Mansoor has set up a one-man internal inquiry by retired chief justice of Chhattisgarh high court VK Gupta into the clashes on December 15-16.

In the western UP district of Kasganj, internet services were suspended following tension, but police described the situation as under control.

KCR didn't greet counterpart Jagan...

Continued from Page 1

However, a host of national and state leaders greeted him.

In general, the Chief Minister's Office releases a press note in this regard at the behest of the Chief Minister. This could have happened on Saturday if KCR really wanted to greet Jagan. However, media houses did not get any communiqué in this regard on Saturday. Noticeably, KCR's son and IT Minister KT Ramarao and TRS Rajya Sabha MP Joginipally Santhosh Kumar greeted Jagan through their handles on Twitter.

The reasons are not far to seek. The two Chief Ministers

have not met ever since Jagan announced his own separate plans for constructing projects to link the rivers. This put paid to the two Chief Ministers' previous oral understanding to work jointly on river-linking projects. It may be recalled that KCR had proposed a project linking Godavari with Krishna for joint execution by Telangana and Andhra Pradesh states.

In any case, KCR and Jagan have not been communicating with each other on any issue since then. The frosty ties, however, did not prevent Jagan from showing praise on KCR post the "encounter" deaths of the four accused in the Disha case. In fact, Jagan went a step further and named his state's path-breaking women security act after Disha. The Disha act seeks to punish rapists within 21 days.

In contrast, KCR did not express his view on AP's Disha Act. KCR is believed to be sore at Jagan as the AP Chief Minister is seen as one who has been troubling the TS government over issues concerning division. In particular, the Telangana Chief Minister is not happy with the statement of Jagan on Pothreddypadu as TRS waged its battle for Telangana statehood inter alia by highlighting Pothreddypadu issue.

Protests show anger spilling out on streets: Pawar

Continued from Page 1

"It is felt that these laws may disturb the country's social and religious harmony; a particular religion seems to be the target. The government has created an atmosphere of instability," Pawar said. He said that in view of this, the NCP voted against the CAA in Parliament, intellectuals and litterateurs are opposing it and now at least eight states have announced they would not implement it. "It appears a rift is being

deliberately created between the Centre and states. The country is facing a severe financial crisis. Attention is sought to be diverted from the economic woes through all this. For no reason at all, such a situation has been created," the senior leader said. Pawar said the proposal to give citizenship to "NRIs" from only three countries — Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan — is also questionable, and asked why all others were kept out of its purview.

Second case of espionage from Vizag, home to ENC

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The arrest of seven personnel of the Indian Navy over an alleged espionage racket may have turned the spotlight back on Vizag, this being the second time a case of espionage has been reported from the coastal city.

Vizag is the headquarters of the Eastern Naval Command of the Indian Navy. In 2001, four Naval personnel and the then chief security officer of the Naval Armament Depot were arrested for alleged spying and leaking sensitive information to ISI agents in Nepal.

Sources said two of those four had passed on microfilms containing pictures of the Naval Command, including the dockyard and shipbuilding centres, to ISI agents in Nepal.

While the trial was still on, Raj Kumar Singh, the chief security officer of NAD, handed himself at the Visakhapatnam Central Jail. The others were handed various terms of imprisonment.

The city assumed importance for the Navy after Pakistan's submarine PNS Ghazi was sunk a few km off the Vizag Coast during the 1971 war. This played a major

role in ending the war. Later, Vizag became the headquarters for Navy's submarine wing. It also houses two nuclear submarines - INS Chakra and indigenously built INS Arihant.

The latest arrests of the seven naval personnel, who were allegedly honey-trapped by the ISI, were carried out under a covert plan code-named Operation Dolphin's Nose. A hill resembling a dolphin's nose sits adjacent to the Eastern Naval Command.

Dolphin's Nose is home to residential complexes and offices of the Indian Navy. Falling prey to a Facebook

honeytrap set up by four women, the sailors allegedly leaked sensitive information about the locations of Indian naval ships and submarines to a Pakistani handler. Following their arrest, the Andhra Pradesh Intelligence Department on Friday claimed to have busted an espionage racket in the Navy.

Central Intelligence officials were seen camping at the Vizag branch, though they declined to speak about the case. Citing the name of the operation, police sources said the spying activities were perhaps being conducted from Vizag itself.



SHORT READS



**Historian Guha terms CAA as 'immoral'**  
**BENGALURU:** Eminent historian and writer Ramachandra Guha on Saturday termed the Citizenship Amendment Act as "immoral" and "against the spirit of the Constitution" and said a wise and just government would withdraw it. He also noted that immediate withdrawal of the NRC was a necessary first step to restore trust and heal the nation. "To make two things absolutely clear. 1. The immediate withdrawal of the NRC is a necessary first step to restore trust and heal the nation. 2. The CAA is immoral and against the spirit of the Constitution. A wise and just Government would withdraw it too," Guha tweeted. Guha was among many others who were detained on Thursday for staging a demonstration against the Citizenship Amendment Act and NRC near the Town Hall here, in defiance of the prohibitory orders imposed in the city.

**Two nabbed from Guj for robbing jewellery store in Pune**

**VADODARA:** Two armed robbers, who had allegedly decamped with valuables worth over 10 lakh from a jewellery store in Maharashtra's Pune city, were arrested in Vadodara, police said on Saturday. The Vadodara crime branch helped the Maharashtra police nab Sushil Ashok Madhre and Amit Sudershan Prasad Chaudhary from a guest house in the railway station area on Friday, inspector J P Patel of the crime branch said. The accused had decamped with valuables worth over Rs 10.19 lakh from a jewellery store in Pune's Kothrud area on November 24, he said, adding that the act was captured by CCTV cameras. Madhre, a dismissed police constable, has been involved in three cases of robbery in Maharashtra, Patel said. The duo had been on the run since last month and had stayed in Delhi and Kolkata before coming to Vadodara, he said.

**Daryaganj violence: Bhim Army chief arrested**

**NEW DELHI:** Bhim Army chief Chandra Shekhar Aazad has been arrested in connection with the violence in Old Delhi's Daryaganj, police said on Saturday. Aazad's outfit had organised a march from Jama Masjid to Jantar Mantar on Friday against the new citizenship law, despite not having permission from police. On Friday evening, after security personnel tried to detain him during the march, Aazad surfaced inside the mosque. He had given the Delhi police a slip to reach the mosque. He came outside Jama Masjid early Saturday and was detained. He was arrested later, police said. After being detained, Aazad was kept at the Crime Branch office in Chanakypuri since he said he was unwell. He was later handed over to the central district police, they added. Following his arrest, he was taken to a hospital for a medical check-up and will be produced in a court. Police suspect he instigated the crowd which turned violent near Delhi Gate and burnt a car.

**NRC, CAA ploy to divert people's attention from eco slump: MNS**

PNS ■ PUNE

MNS president Raj Thackeray on Saturday virtually dubbed the new citizenship law and proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC) as ploys by the Centre to divert the attention of people from the "economic crisis". Thackeray also raised questions over the proposed "influx" of immigrants from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh to India under the recently-passed Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). "There is a riot-like situation in the country due to the violence over CAA and NRC. I wonder how many people have understood these two decisions. There are different aspects to these two issues," he told reporters. For the first time, I would like to congratulate (Union Home Minister and BJP chief) Amit Shah for the "political game" he has played for suc-



MNS president Raj Thackeray

cessfully diverting the attention of people from recession and economic crisis, Thackeray said. The CAA proposes to grant Indian citizenship to non-Muslim refugees escaping religious persecution from

Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh, which has triggered massive protests across the country. "If you can cast your vote showing Aadhaar card as proof then why can't that document prove your citizenship? Why

**Referring to CAA provisions, the MNS chief said India with a '135 crore population' do not need more people**

were people made to undergo biometric screening?" he asked. Referring to CAA provisions, the MNS chief said India with a "135 crore population" do not need more people. There is no need to put it as an issue between Hindu and Muslims, he said. Thackeray also said India is not a "dharma-shala" or a charity shelter where illegal immigrants can come and settle down. "It is important to check how many Bangladeshis, Pakistanis have entered India from the Nepal border," the MNS chief

said even as he appealed to Muslims in India to not feel insecure. He demanded an inter-state migration act to enable government authorities to identify illegal migrants. Thackeray also criticised the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena for joining hands with the Congress and the NCP to form a new government. He said that that decision was not gone down well with the common people, who will express it in the next elections. "The good part of the (October 2019) Assembly elections was that most of the defectors who crossed over to other parties got defeated," he said. Thackeray said the first state-level convention of the MNS will be held in Mumbai on January 23. The Raj Thackeray-led party has only one MLA in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.

**Jaishankar begins 2-day visit to Iran**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar will embark on a two-day visit to Iran from Sunday, where he will co-chair the 19th Joint Commission Meeting with his Iranian counterpart, Javed Zarif. Jaishankar is also expected to call upon Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, the External Affairs Ministry said in a statement on Saturday. The meeting comes days after the US provided a rare exemption to India from sanctions on the Chabahar port in Iran as Washington said it recognised that the strategic project was a lifeline for war-torn Afghanistan to get humanitarian supplies from India. The Chabahar port — jointly being developed by India, Iran and Afghanistan — is considered a gateway to golden opportunities for trade with central Asian nations by the three countries. It is located on the Indian Ocean in the Sistan and Baluchistan province of Iran. Jaishankar will also be visiting Oman from December 23 to 25 at the invitation of Omani Foreign Minister Yousuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah, the External



**The Chabahar port — jointly being developed by India, Iran and Afghanistan — is considered a gateway to golden opportunities for trade with central Asian nations by the three countries**

Affairs Ministry said in another statement. "During his visit, EAM, in addition to meeting his counterpart, will hold meetings with other ministers to discuss matters of mutual interest. An agreement for cooperation in the field of maritime transport will be signed during the visit.

**RJD's bandh brings normal life in Bihar to a grinding halt**

PNS ■ PATNA

Bihar was rocked by large-scale vandalism and disruption of rail and road traffic on Saturday during a bandh call by the opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal in protest against the amended Citizenship Act and the proposed country-wide implementation of the NRC. Carrying bamboo sticks and party flags, bandh supporters gathered at bus stands, railway tracks and other vantage points in all districts of the state since the crack of dawn, unfazed by the winter fog and chilly winds. They sat down on railway tracks and blocked bus terminuses at various places to enforce the day-long bandh. The protesters also smashed windshields of taxis and three-wheelers and damaged cycle-rickshaws that plied on the roads in defiance of the call for the shutdown at the towns of Bhagalpur, Muzaffarpur and outskirts of Patna. At many places, the bandh supporters included children of not more than 10-15 years of age and some of the agitators were in their underwear. Tejashwi Yadav, leader of the opposition in the state Assembly and heir apparent of RJD supreme Lalu Prasad, marched in a large procession from the party office in Bir



**The protesters also smashed windshields of taxis and three-wheelers and damaged cycle-rickshaws that plied on the roads in defiance of the call for the shutdown at the towns of Bhagalpur, Muzaffarpur and outskirts of Patna**

Chand Patel Marg here to Dak Bungalow crossing, throwing traffic on the busy Fraser Road and Bailey Road out of gear. At some places in Patna, workers of the party known for their strong arm tactics to enforce bandhs, tried an image makeover by presenting people with roses and urging them with folded hands to support the shutdown in "national interest". The shutdown, that came two days after a bandh was called on the same issue by Left parties, is being supported by other constituents of the Grand Alliance like the Congress and

the Rashtriya Lok Samata Party (RLSP). RLSP chief Uppendra Kushwaha, a former Union minister, took part in a march in Patna. Asked about the rationale behind the bandh despite an assurance given by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar that NRC will not be implemented in the state, Kushwaha said, "Such assurances by state governments are meaningless. We must prevent the Centre from taking such a step. The ball has been set rolling with the Citizenship Amendment Act which Kumar's party supported."

**AAP needs to set target of winning over 67 seats: Kejriwal**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party needs to set a target of winning more seats in the upcoming election than it won in the 2015 polls when it secured 67 of the 70 assembly seats, Delhi Chief Minister and AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal told party members on Saturday. Kejriwal said the party members should fight the upcoming election with all their strength. "There is just over a month left for assembly elections in Delhi and since Delhi is party's base from where it started we have to strongly fight the election," he told party members at the eighth national council meeting. "Our target is also very big. Last time, we won 67 seats and this time, we should not get less than that but more than that number," he said amid slogans of "70 out of 70" by party members. The Aam Aadmi Party, which won 67 of the 70 seats in 2015, will fight this election in collaboration with election strategist Prashant Kishor's consultancy firm I-PAC. "My advice is that people (members or volunteers) who have come from outside should take up what responsibility they will be assuming in the upcoming polls," he said. According to sources, the AAP has called all its party members and volunteers to



**Our target is also very big. Last time, we won 67 seats and this time, we should not get less than that but more than that number**

— ARVIND KEJRIWAL, Chief Minister of Delhi

the national capital for preparation and campaigning for the election due in Delhi next year. Kejriwal said his party has changed the political discourse and forced the BJP to talk about development issues in Delhi. "It is the same BJP that ask for votes based on Jat and non-Jat in Haryana and Hindu-Muslim in rest of the country but in Delhi, it has been forced to talk about development. The agenda of BJP of Hindu-Muslim politics does not work in Delhi.

**70-yr-old, accomplice get life term for raping minor in Rajasthan**

PNS ■ KOTA (RAJASTHAN)

A POCSO court has sentenced a 70-year-old man and a 40-year-old accomplice to life imprisonment for raping a minor girl two years ago in Rajasthan's Kota district. P O C S O Court-II Judge Narendra Kumar Sharma on Friday pronounced the verdict on Babulal Mali alias Krishan Murari (70) and his associate Mohit Mali alias Manoj (40), both residents of Deoli Manjhi village in Kota district, for raping the 13-year-old girl of the same village, public prosecutor Vijay Kachawa said. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 35,000 on each of the two convicts, he added.

The two men were booked for gang-rape of the minor girl under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act in Deoli Manjhi police station on May 30, 2017. The then Class VII girl had lodged a complaint in which she alleged that Babulal Mali, in the pretext of offering a cucumber, took her to a well in the village, the public prosecutor said. Babulal along with his associate Mohit took the girl inside a kutchra room near the well where the duo took turns and raped her, the prosecutor further said. The two men were held guilty for gang-rape and convicted to life term in jail till their remaining lives, Kachawa said.

**MP Binoy Viswam, five CPI activists arrested**

PNS ■ MANGALURU

CPI Rajya Sabha MP from Kerala Binoy Viswam and some party activists who staged a protest here against the CAA on Saturday defying curfew, were detained, police said. The protesters raised 'Save India, Save Democracy' slogans and criticised the Yediyurappa government for its actions against those protesting against the new law. Six protesters including Binoy Viswam were detained, police said. Meanwhile, police have restricted the entry of former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to the city, which was rocked by violent protests against the CAA leaving two dead in



police firing, during the period when curfew is in place. City police commissioner P S Harsha has served notice on Siddaramaiah restraining the latter from entering the city limits till Sunday midnight, police said. The notice also mentions

that no one can facilitate his travel into the city. A delegation of senior Congress leaders who landed in Mangaluru to meet those injured and bereaved families of the two deceased on Friday were denied permission and detained at the airport here. The delegation included Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council S R Patil, former Home Minister and MLA M B Patil, former Speaker and MLA K R Ramesh Kumar and former MP V S Ugrappa. Siddaramaiah also had to cancel his trip to Mangaluru from Bengaluru on getting information that the chartered aircraft he was to take was denied permission to land at the airport.

**CPI(M) URGES PROTESTERS TO CONTINUE THEIR AGITATION**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CPI(M) on Saturday appealed to protesters to continue their agitation peacefully against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and demanded that the contentious legislation be withdrawn and the NRC process be discontinued. Thousands of people have been agitating in various parts of the country since December 11, when the contentious citizenship bill was passed in Parliament. "We appeal to the people to continue the protests peacefully against the anti-Constitutional Citizenship Amendment Act and the connected NRC/NPR. We



condemn the prohibition on protests and excessive use of force by the police against peaceful protesters in many places," CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury tweeted. "India has long been respected globally for its democratic credentials, freedom to protest, commitment to pluralism, with commitment to a progressive constitution," he said.



**'Activists' arrest in Elgar Parishad case wrong'**

PNS ■ PUNE

Terming the arrest of activists in the Elgar Parishad case "wrong" and "vengeful", NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Saturday demanded that a Special Investigation Team be set up under a retired judge to probe the action taken by Pune police. Pawar also demanded that the police officers involved with the arrests be suspended. "It is wrong to imprison the activists on the charge of sedition. Voicing extreme views is allowed in democracy. The action of Pune police is wrong and vengeful. It is a misuse of power by the police commissioner and some of the officers. They had attacked the basic freedom of people and one cannot be a mute spectator to all this," Pawar said. "We will demand the chief minister that an SIT headed by a retired judge be instituted to probe the police action," he said.

**Two get life term, one acquitted in 2007 twin bomb blasts case**

PNS ■ FAIZABAD (UP)

A special anti-terror court has sentenced two persons to life imprisonment for their alleged roles in the November 2007 twin blast case in the district court premises here in which five people were killed and 24 were injured. Additional District and Sessions Judge Ashok Kumar, heading the special court set up under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, pronounced the quantum of sentence amid tight security in the special courtroom in the



Faizabad jail. "The special court sentenced two persons to life imprisonment and acquitted one on Friday in the 2007 district court serial blast case," Faizabad Bar Association president Vijay Bahadur Singh said on Saturday. The two who were sentenced are tariq

Quasim and Mohammad Akhtar while the third accused in the case, Sajjad Ur Rahman, was acquitted due to lack of evidence. A fourth accused, Khalid Mujahid, had died in the police custody under suspicious conditions. Twelve years ago on November 23, 2007, the Faizabad district court had been rocked by two simultaneous bomb blasts in which five people, including a lawyer, were killed and 24 others were injured, seven of them critically.

**Students cut short field trip under threat?**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A group of students from Jamia Millia Islamia on Friday claimed they had to cut short their field trip to Haryana's Panipat district after some villagers asked them to "leave or face the consequences". Panipat's Superintendent of Police Sumit Kumar, however, denied any such incident and said the students did not complain about anything during their stay in the district. One of the students, part of the 43-member group from Jamia's Social Work Department, said the incident happened on Tuesday when they were attending a 10-day rural camp in Patti Kalyana,



Haldana and Garhi Tyagya villages. "The rural camp started on the morning of December 15, the day violence erupted near Jamia Millia Islamia (against the new citizenship law). Two teachers and two non-teaching staff accompa-

nied us on the trip," said the student, who did not wish to be identified. Another student said the group stayed at the Gandhi Ashram near Patti Kalyana village. "We were to carry out awareness drives in the villages

**The rural camp started on the morning of December 15, the day violence erupted near Jamia Millia Islamia. 2 teachers and 2 non-teaching staff accompanied us on the trip**

as part of the rural camp. The 43 students were divided into three sub-groups, each for a village. On the third day, we went to Patti Kalyana, where we visited a primary school and an anganwadi centre and talked to villagers," he said.

CAPSULE



**Bharat Bond ETF oversubscribed 1.7 times**

**NEW DELHI:** The ambitious Bharat Bond ETF has closed for subscription on Friday with over-subscription of 1.7 times, garnering Rs 12,000 crore to be utilised for capex of PSUs. The base size of issue of Rs 7,000 crore. "India's first corporate Bond ETF, Bharat Bond ETF, has received a great response from investors across different segments. The issue was over-subscribed approximately 1.7 times, collecting about Rs 12,000 crore. Information is subject to further update," DIPAM Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said in a late evening tweet. The exchange-traded fund will invest only in AAA-rated bonds of public sector companies and will have target maturity structures. The ETF with a 3-year maturity will follow the Nifty Bharat Bond Index-April 2023 and the one with a 10-year maturity will follow the Nifty Bharat Bond Index-April 2030. The yield as on 5 December 2019, of Nifty Bharat Bond Index-April 2023 is 6.69 per cent and the Nifty Bharat Bond Index-April 2030 is 7.58 per cent.



**TBZ Original says it has no connection with Tribhovandas Bhimji Zaveri & Sons**

**NEW DELHI:** Leading jeweller Tribhovandas Bhimji Zaveri or TBZ Original on Friday clarified that it is in no way connected with Tribhovandas Bhimji Zaveri & Sons Retail, which is facing bankruptcy proceedings. The company, also known as TBZ-The Original, in a BSE filing said it is neither connected nor does have any relation with Tribhovandas Bhimji Zaveri & Sons Retail Pvt Ltd, which has gone into insolvency proceedings, nor do its promoters or the management hold any shares in the bankrupt jeweller. TBZ-The Original has actor Sara Ali Khan endorsing its brands, and is promoted by industry veteran Shrikant Zaveri, the filing said. This clarification came in after the resolution professional of Tribhovandas Bhimji Zaveri & Sons Retail put up a public notice on December 16 seeking claims from lenders and non-financial creditors.

**Japan lifts curbs on export of key chip material to South Korea**

**AFP ■ MUMBAI**

Japan has lifted curbs on the export of a key microchip material to South Korea, news reports said Saturday, days before the leaders of both countries meet in their first formal talks for more than a year.

The ministry of economy, trade and industry on Friday removed photoresists -- used to coat semiconductor circuit

**'No new ration card needed for inter-state portability'**

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

No new ration card will be required for availing the portability benefit under the government's ambitious 'one nation, one ration card' initiative to be rolled out across the country from June 2020, Food Minister Ram Vilas Paswan said on Friday.

Currently, the initiative is being implemented on a pilot basis. Inter-state as well as state level portability is being tried in a cluster approach. The government's aim is to implement the initiative across India from June 1, next year.

Under the initiative, eligible beneficiaries would be able to avail their entitled foodgrain under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) from any Fair Price Shop in the country using the same ration card.

Paswan, who reviewed the implementation of the initiative, said, "There were reports in some newspapers that new ration cards will be needed for this scheme. It is baseless. No new ration card (is) required. Existing card will be valid pan India".

Beneficiaries will avail subsidised foodgrain using their existing ration card by biometric authentication on electronic point of sale (ePoS) machines, he said in a series of tweets.

The minister said the state



**Currently, the initiative is being implemented on a pilot basis. Inter-state as well as state level portability is being tried in a cluster approach. The government's aim is to implement the initiative across India from June 1, next year**

level portability of ration card is fully operational in 12 States and partially in four states.

The 'state-level portability' allows the ration card holders to lift their foodgrain from any ePoS enabled fair price shops (FPS) within their district or state.

Whereas 'inter-state portability' is operational in eight

states in clusters of two-adjointing states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana; Gujarat and Maharashtra; Haryana and Rajasthan and Karnataka and Kerala, the minister added.

"Four more states Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Jharkhand and Tripura will be clubbed with these 8 states from January 1, 2020 to make one cluster,"

Paswan said.

He said the beneficiaries from all these 12 states will be able to lift their entitled foodgrain from any FPS of these 12 states.

Paswan said the e-biometric authentication of beneficiaries and state-level portability is essential for distribution of foodgrain under the 'One Nation One Ration Card' scheme.

However, Tamil Nadu and Delhi governments are not using ePoS devices in ration shops. Assam government has not taken any initiative so far to install ePoS devices, he said.

In Tamil Nadu, the use of ePoS devices in 34,700 FPSs has not started despite achieving 100 per cent Aadhaar seeding in ration cards.

In Delhi, the use of ePoS devices remain suspended since April 2018 despite implementation of 100 per cent biometric based distribution through ePoS in all its FPSs.

Whereas the Assam government has not yet taken any initiative so far towards the installation of ePoS devices in 38,300 FPSs even after continuous persuasion by the department, he added.

Under the NFSA, about 75 crore beneficiaries have been covered so far against the target of 81.35 crore, as per official data.

**Govt allows import of urad dal up to 4 lakh tonne**

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

The government has allowed import up to 4 lakh tonnes of urad dal this fiscal only by millers and refiners to boost domestic supply and prevent spike in prices.

Earlier, the government had allowed import of urad up to 1.5 lakh tonne for the fiscal ending March 2020.

"Import of urad shall be subject to an annual quota of 4 lakh MT. Import of urad under the quota restriction will be allowed only to the millers/refiners," said a notification issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).

The restriction, however, will not apply to the government's import commitments under any bilateral or regional agreements.

India Pulses and Grains Association (IPGA) Chairman Jitu Bheda had demanded relaxation of norms for import of urad dal.

Meanwhile, the government has decided to offload 8.47 lakh tonne of pulses from its buffer stock to boost domestic availability and ensure stability in prices.

The Centre has offered 3.2 lakh tonne of tur (arhar), 2 lakh tonne of urad, 1.2 lakh tonne of chana, 1.5 lakh tonne of moong and 57,000 tonne of masoor.



**Trump signs \$1.4 tn in spending, avoids shutdown**

**AP ■ WEST PALM BEACH**

President Donald Trump has signed off nearly USD 1.4 trillion in spending that will keep the government funded through September 30, dodging the possibility of a shutdown ahead of what's expected to be a contentious election season.

White House deputy press secretary Judd Deere said Trump signed the legislation on Friday aboard Air Force One as he travelled to his Mar-a-Lago resort, where he will be celebrating Christmas and New Year's.

The spending measures, which will add roughly USD 400 billion to the deficit over 10 years, include money for the president's US-Mexico

border fence, pay raises for military and civilian federal workers, and federal funding for election security grants.

The massive spending measures were made public earlier this week and headed off a repeat of last year's end-of-the-year impasse that led to a 35-day partial government shutdown. That showdown stemmed from Trump's demand that Congress sign off on nearly USD 6 billion in funding for the border wall.

Hundreds of thousands of government workers were furloughed or forced to work without pay during the shutdown. Trump skipped his holiday vacation and remained in Washington through the impasse.

**'Banking industry's NPA situation to improve by fiscal-end'**

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar on Saturday said most banks will be in a good position with respect to stressed assets by March and there is no dearth of liquidity in the system for lending.

He added that there are opportunities to lend in sectors such as infrastructure and consumer lending as there is not much of a decline in demand from consumers.

"By March 31st, most of the banks will be in a good position with respect to stressed assets," Kumar said at the 92nd Annual Convention of industry chamber FICCI here.

On transmission of monetary policy, he said the banks cannot lower rates beyond a threshold due to asset liability mismatch issues.

Kumar stated that there is no shortage of capital in the system, but the corporates are not borrowing enough and not utilising their capacities well.

On lending to the telecom sector for the next round of spectrum auctions, he said,



**By March 31st, most of the banks will be in a good position with respect to stressed assets**  
—RAJNISH KUMAR, SBI Chairman

"For us lending to the telecom sector for spectrum is completely unsecured. On paper it is secured as the auction is to be done by government but practically it is totally unsecured."

"So in such circumstances, banks will have to evaluate carefully before lending to the sector as the probability of default is very high," Kumar said.

**STT GDC India plans to double data centre capacity in 3 yrs**

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Data centre company STT GDC India on Friday said it plans to double its capacity in next 3 years to capitalise on data growth in the country.

Majorly owned by Singapore based ST Telemedia, the company on Friday touched 100 megawatt of IT load capacity with launch of new facility in Bengaluru.

"With Bengaluru facility coming up, we have reached 100 megawatt of IT load capacity in India. We are planning to invest beyond this. In next 2-3 year we plan to double our capacity," STT GDC India CEO Sumit Mukhija told PTI.

**JSW STEEL'S PLANT AT JAGATSINGHPUR IN ODISHA**

**Public hearing passes off peacefully**

**PNS ■ PARADIP**

Public hearing for JSW Steel's proposed plant at the site earlier selected for the Posco project, passed off peacefully here on Friday with the district administration of Jagatsinghpur assuring the people that their legitimate demands would be met.

Around 10,000 people from nearby villages participated at the hearing, held at Gadakujiang, but the people who are likely to be affected by the proposed project, the residents of Dhinkia, Nuagaon and Noliashahi villages, boycotted the public hearing.

More than 300 people placed their views on the impact of the proposed mega project on the environment.

"The public hearing was absolutely peaceful and many



**Odisha State Pollution Control Board's regional officer Ramesh Chandra Ekka and JSW officials were also present in the public hearing**

people were allowed to give their opinion on the proposed project," Jagatsinghpur district collector Sangram Keshari Mohapatra told reporters.

"The district administration is aware about the people's grievances and steps will be taken to protect interest of the locals," Mohapatra said.

Odisha State Pollution

Control Board's regional officer Ramesh Chandra Ekka and JSW officials were also present in the public hearing.

The district administration had deployed 25 platoons (one platoon comprises 30 personnel) of the police force, keeping in view the prevailing resentment among the locals. South Korean steel major

Posco had to abandon its Rs 52,000 crore project at the same site due to stiff opposition of the local people.

However, the situation for JSW's project appears to have changed as the former secretary of Posco Prarodh Sangram Samiti (PPSS), Sisir Mohapatra, has welcomed the project and demanded an ideal rehabilitation and resettlement package for the affected people.

PPSS was the local body of farmers which was opposing the South Korean steel major's project tooth and nail.

All the participants spoke of employment, rehabilitation and impact of pollution on the local community.

All of them demanded that jobs should be provided to the people who would be affected by the project.

**AI employee unions seek waiver of loans**

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

Several employee unions of Air India on Friday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding waiver of the airline's loans and run it by a professional management.

Against the backdrop of the government working out the modalities for Air India disinvestment, seven employee groupings have also said the carrier can be turned around.

"Air India has been reporting operational profit for as long as three years. Servicing the loans is a major challenge as the annual output is an upwards of Rs 4,000 crore," they said in a letter.

The letter has been signed by representatives of seven

unions -- Indian Commercial Pilots' Association, Indian Pilots' Guild, Air Corporations Employees' Union, All India Cabin Crew Association, Air India Employees' Union, Indian Aircraft Technicians' Association and All India Aircraft Engineers' Association.

The unions have urged the government to consider waiving the credits and have the airline run by a professional management.

"We have immense faith, that taking these actions will indeed find Air India in the league of profit making carriers, once again."

"... Air India can be turned around and run successfully in the hands of professionals if the government intends for it to," the letter said.

**Govt reforms special economic zones framework**

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

The government on Friday announced reforms to the existing SEZ legal framework whereby provisions for minimum land area and sector specific and multi-product SEZs have been amended.

Henceforth, all existing and new SEZs would become multi-sector SEZs thereby enabling coexistence of a SEZ unit from any sector along with any other SEZ unit.

Further, the provisions governing the minimum land area requirement for setting up of SEZs have also been relaxed and simplified, an official statement said.

"The amendment which were notified today are expected to be a major step in unlocking the potential of SEZs to attract investments and boost exports," the Commerce and Industry Ministry said.



**Soldiers in remote areas can now use VSAT to call families**

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Over 1,400 remote locations where Indian soldiers are posted will be connected with satellite communications system or VSAT which will help these jawans to communicate with their families over phone, the government said on Friday.

Military and paramilitary soldiers stationed in those remote locations will get 1 GB data per day through VSAT facility.

"Digital Communication Commission (DCC) today approved to use VSAT for connecting 1,409 remote locations provided by the Ministry of Defence and Home Ministry where jawans are posted. We will provide free 1 GB data daily which they can use to make calls to their families," Telecom Secretary Anshu Prakash told reporters.

He said that at present these soldiers at these locations depend on community or village telephones to connect with their families.

"With this system, soldiers

**Military and paramilitary soldiers stationed in those remote locations will get 1 GB data per day through VSAT facility**

will be able to subscribe connections at very cheap rate and make calls to their families at a nominal price," Prakash said.

The VSAT will provide data download speed of 1-10 megabit per second.

The DCC, apex decision making body at the Department of Telecom, approved providing digital connectivity to 1,408 uncovered villages in 112 aspirational districts across the country. This will also include connectivity to all 144 unconnected villages in Jammu and Kashmir and Leh union territories, Prakash said.

**'Steel industry may face disruption on expiry of mining leases'**

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

State-run SAIL on Saturday said the steel industry may face disruption post March 2020 when a number of mining leases expire.

A clutch of mining leases for coal and iron ore are slated to expire by March next year.

According to the amended Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, these licences will not be renewed and the mines will be allotted through fresh auctions.

"Today perhaps because of the change in the legislation everything has to go through the auction route, which is creating lots of issues and the steel



industry may face disruption by 1.4.2020 because of the auctions of coal mines," SAIL Chairman Anil Kumar Chaudhary said. He was speaking at a session

**Today perhaps because of the change in the legislation everything has to go through the auction route, which is creating lots of issues and the steel industry may face disruption by 1.4.2020 because of the auctions of coal mines**  
— ANIL KUMAR CHAUDHARY, SAIL Chairman

on 'India: Roadmap To A USD 5 Trillion Economy' organised by industry chamber FICCI here.

Another concern for the industry is high input cost, Chaudhary said.

Today the production cost of steel in India is the highest and one of the major factors contributing to this are the taxes, he said.

Royalty is close to 20 per

cent on the input material, whether it is coal or iron ore. Freight cost is higher than what is being paid in other countries. Electricity also adds to the high production cost, Chaudhary said.

"In India, average production cost of per tonne steel is about USD 450, whereas in China it is as low as USD 350 where players get benefit of low tax and incentives," he emphasised.

Coking coal and iron ore are the two key raw materials needed for making steel.

"As far iron ore is concerned, we have it in abundance. The only thing is the judicial allocation has to happen. Coking coal is not available in our country and the whole industry is dependent on import of coking coal, particularly integrated steel sector imports from Australia, Indonesia, the US etc," he said.

All these challenges need to be addressed for meeting the ambitious 300 MT steel production capacity target set by the government under the National Steel Policy, he added.



# POWERPUFF GIRLS

MUSBA HASHMI meets young crusaders from Jharkhand and Rajasthan who have been making a difference in their respective villages with their body of work defying age barriers. Their fight is against age-old contentious issues like child marriage, casteism, illiteracy and child labour. A report

At an age as young as 13, when most girls tend to live in a make-belief world, where everything is sweet and nice, two little warriors decided to initiate a fight against the evils in the society. Meet Arti Kumari and Champa Kumari who feared none and raised their voice against the villains like casteism, child marriage, child labour and illiteracy, that are there in the society since time immemorial.

Hailing from Raipura in Alwar, Rajasthan, Arti is a Class VII student and the second eldest of the four siblings in the family. Her father is a *jawaan* in the Army and is posted in the conflict areas of Kashmir.

Arti's village comprises of many families from backward castes and tribes. The access to social spaces and village infrastructure depends very much on the caste of the person. Arti's family belongs to a higher caste, and therefore is economically and socially more comfortable than many in the community.

Despite the fact that Arti has never faced any discrimination, her zeal to take up the issue of casteism at such a young age amazes everyone. "How can you decide how to treat another person based on their caste? This isn't even something they choose for themselves," she asks passionately.

To eradicate this evil practice, Arti started interacting with the people from the lower castes. But this didn't sit well with many people in her village, not even her family. "My mother used to ask me what I was doing and that the whole village will boycott me, but I told her that they too are human and there is nothing to avoid them. Gradually, my family understood what I was doing, but I had to go through a lot of resistance from the villagers who used to ask my parents whether I am in my senses or not," she tells you.

Not only this, Arti took a step ahead by having a meal in the house of one such family on the occasion of Makar Sankranti.

The other thing that kept disturbing Arti was that none of the children from lower castes or the Banjara community went to school. "Initially, it never bothered me. But after I was told about the opportunities that open up when you get educated, I started wondering, 'How would the future for these children be, without education?'" she tells you.

This thought made Arti and other children determined to work to change the situation. As a result, today, all 96 children in her village are enrolled in schools around the area.

When Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) started its work here in 2015, every third child in the village was either out-of-school, or not enrolled. Many children worked in the stone quarries for a meager sum of money. The area is also considered to be a source point for child trafficking. Lured by traffickers disguised as contractors, many poor families agree to send their children to work in cities. As a result, many children end up trafficked for illegal purposes.

The Banjara community, a historically nomadic

tribe, lives on the outskirts of the village, ranking the lowest in the societal hierarchy. None of the Banjara children from here ever went to school until 2015.

Guided by the activists, Arti along with other children, tried to understand the rights children have. They were astonished to see how the rights of many children around them were violated regularly. This was especially common in the case of children from the Banjara and other low-caste communities. This realisation made the group ready to take the matter into their own hands.

Driven with the motivation to change the situation of children, Arti contested the Bal Panchayat elections and became an elected member.

"Along with other children, I used to organise rallies, door-to-door campaigns, and personal meetings with parents, highlighting the consequences of ill-practices like child marriage, child labour, and abuse and exploitation of children. However, initially all of them used to drive us away, showing no interest of engaging into any kind of conversation. But, I kept trying until the day they agreed to sit and talk," she says.

Arti and the other members of the Bal Panchayat also played a pivotal role in stopping child marriages happening in their village with the support of village elders and activists.

Among all the challenges, the biggest challenge was to convince the Banjara community people to send their children to school. "Who will take the cattle out for grazing?" "Who will go earn for the family?" "Will the children from the upper caste even talk to our children?" Questions like these hounded the Bal Panchayat members.

Therefore, the group changed their strategy. They started regularly engaging the Banjara children in sports and playing with them. "When we first went to the community, they showed no interest of talking to us. They used to say *hamare bachchon ko bigad degi yeh ladki* and various other things. That time, I felt like giving up. It felt bad because what we were doing was for their own good but still we had to hear such bad things that demotivated us. In this phase of time, what kept us going was the words of BBA activists. They told us that fighting evil is not as easy as it seems and that this was just a small portion of it.

"We started visiting the community regularly. We tried conversing with the children but all went in vain. The parents gave strict instructions to the children to not indulge in any talks with us. Then we started playing games amongst each other. This lured the Banjara children and gradually we earned their trust. We developed a deeper relationship with them. We then were able to convince the children about the importance of education and play. And eventually, both the parents and the children agreed to go to school," she tells you.

The Bal Panchayat also had a Banjara boy elected as the *sarpanch* (head), which was groundbreaking. Arti, as the secretary of the council, continued focusing on regularisation of education for children from the Banjara community. The group



Arti Kumari

I AM HAPPY TO SEE THAT SOME AMOUNT OF EMPOWERMENT HAS COME TO THE GIRL CHILD. TODAY, ANY GIRL GOING TO SCHOOL DOESN'T NEED TO BE ESCORTED FROM HOME — ARTI KUMARI

also campaigned against caste-based discrimination, and for improving the quality of education and infrastructure in their schools.

Arti has also spoken fearlessly against the caste system and reservations on many platforms like rallies and campaigns at the village level. She debates that reservations should be on the basis of one's economic condition, and the benefits should percolate down to the ones who need it the most.

The Gram Panchayat also recognises this Bal Panchayat and thus acts swiftly on children's concerns. Due to their impact, the Block Development Officer and other administrative officials also cooperate with them.

They have collectively been able to contribute to the village's development tremendously, especially the condition of schools. Improved attendance of enrolled children in school owing to regular teachers, improved meals, better student-teacher ratio, and better play grounds have been some of the major achievements of this collaboration.

At this point, the challenge for this group of resolute children is to get the route of an open drain adjacent to their school diverted. The drain overflows during the rains and spews waste around the school and on the play ground, making it inaccessible, and also creating foul smells.

"We have already communicated about this to the Gram Panchayat, and they have told us that they will act on this soon," Arti says, with a twinkle in her eyes that speaks of the confidence these kids have in themselves.

There is a lot many changes that Arti hopes to see in the girls of her village. "I would want that the girls should feel empowered. Though, the change has come. Earlier, these girls never went to the school without a companion. So if one was absent from the school, the other will not go as well. Most of them preferred staying back at their homes. But now, none of them wants to miss the school. Even if someone is absent, the other will go by her own. This is the change that I would like to see on a larger scale that the girls should come forward and stand for their rights," she says.

While Arti is much wiser than her age, Champa, a resident of Jhamdar village, is no less. She is the Vice President of National Maha Bal Panchayat. She has also won the prestigious Diana Award for her work against child marriages in mica-mining areas of Jharkhand and was felicitated by Dropdi Murmuat, Jharkhand Governor at Raj Bhawan in Ranchi.

Champa Kumari was once a school dropout and used to go to mines to collect mica as her education was never the priority of her family. In the year 2016, Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation intervened in Champa's village with the aim to put an end to evil practices like child marriages, child labour, child trafficking and all forms of child exploitation as well as ensuring 100 per cent enrolment of children in school.

"Like me, there were a lot of children in my area who were taken to the mines to collect mica by their parents. Their age was never a concern for the par-



Champa Kumari

ents. Even children as young as eight years were involved in the work. Once the parents thought that the child is big enough to become a helping hand, they would take them to work," she says.

Being a child who had been into mica mining, she understands how hazardous it is and all she wanted was to stop other children from falling prey to such jobs.

Apart from being a mica hub, her village practises child marriage as a tradition, but Champa wanted to put an end to this. Therefore, with the intervention of Champa Kumari and other members of Bal Panchayat two child marriages were foiled in her village.

"I got to know about the marriage through some villagers. A 12-year-old girl was being married off to a man much older to her. I went there along with other members of the Bal Panchayat and we stopped that horrendous act. It was difficult to convince the parents to not marry their daughter in one go, but after multiple attempts we were able to save the girl," she says. In her village, girls aged between 12-14 are usually married to boys between 18-19 years of age.

The whole village stood against Champa, but the young heart had no plans of back tracking. "My parents told me not to intervene in such matters. The villagers used to call us names for not abiding by the so called laws of the village. But *maine kabhi himmat nahin haari*. I told me parents that the way I was rescued from child labour, it is my responsibility to help others and somehow they were convinced and supported my decision," she tells you.

The largest impact of Champa's efforts that could be seen is the reduction rate of child marriages in her village. She has become a catalyst of change not only in her village, but in the nearby villages as well.

There are many children like Champa who are dedicated to making child friendly nation through developing the collective leadership by children themselves using democratic process across India.



# the pioneer agenda

FROM THE INSIDE

## Ruler: Strictly for fans

Outdated storyline, tried and tested drama scenes, slow narration, non-practical action scenes, unflattering makeover of Balakrishna, and the list goes on.... makes the film nothing but a huge disappointment

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## No shortcut to fixing issues

Instead of expecting external intervention, better put in conscious efforts to make necessary amends

Don't ever give up. Never ever listen to anyone, when they try to discourage you, because they do that, believe me!  
— Mariah Carey



The variety of lentils available in India has the potential to make our everyday food much more nutritious and bring a wider flavour profile to our plate, writes SANGEETA KHANNA



# Lentils and pakodas

If you have lived in a metro city all your life, you are most likely to have missed some of the best choices in food. The glut of imported vegetables and fruits in urban markets make for a good eye-wash and most of us are aware of this already. The day the urban markets start stocking wild purslane and wild fiddle head fern in season, we would know our choices have improved. We don't realise how much we can control the food system and the market just by making the right choices and being aware in the first place. We end up consuming a very narrow range of produce even though there is a vast variety available and remains undervalued. For example, India is the leading producer of lentils and we still need to import lentils from other countries because most of us consume only two to three types of lentils as staples and a large variety of lentils remain undervalued.

Just think of the lentils you can recognise by taste and if all you can come up with is *kali dal* and *peeli dal* and may be *sambar*, you need to educate yourself better. The amazing variety of lentils available in India has a potential to make our everyday food much more nutritious and bring a wider flavour profile to our plate. In fact, the awareness about the variety of real foods and ingredients available around us can be instrumental in bringing a desired change in our own health management and the environment of the planet. The regional variety of foods within the country is mind boggling and when I see people lugging gluten-free flours from the west, I wonder when and how would we market our millets better. Recently, when I moved to Dehradun, I was most excited about the local seasonal vegetables, lentils and



beans I now have access to. But when I heard a Maharashtrian neighbour lamenting about the unavailability of *mottu* lentils in the town and another Keralite neighbour complain about how difficult it was to bring *ragi* flour from her native place, I figured it was time to introduce them to local produce as replacements. I took them to the *kirana* shop across the road and introduced them to the *naurangi dal* and *mandue ka atta*. In the bargain, I made friends with the *kirana* shop owner, who got me local hemp seeds. This kind of personal connect with ingredients wouldn't have been possible at the supermarket a couple of kilometres away. Ah, we surely need to realign our food compass a little bit to see clearly.

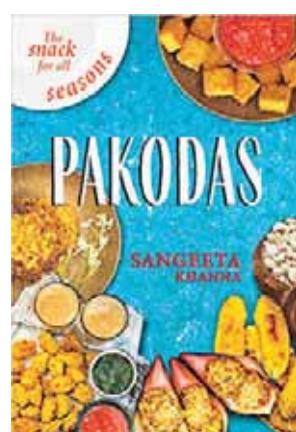
I am reminded of a story my grandmother used to tell me when I was little. It is a story of a little birdie who used to go searching for lentil grits in the *chakki* of each home and how she once tried to pick a lentil and half of the split lentil got stuck in the *chakki*. The birdie lamented about how she didn't get enough food for her *pardes* (foreign) travel. It was possibly a migratory bird who needed all the food for the long distance travel and the hand operated stone-mill in the homes was the best place to pick on them. Several folk tales and ancient sayings had lentils as a central theme in India. This just goes to say that lentils have been an important part of our food system.

Interestingly, the hand-operated stone mill has been instrumental in the ways lentils have been used in India, the largest producer and consumer of lentils on earth. In fact, the black lentil or *urad dal* and black chickpeas or black gram are native to India and have been used in various ways since the time recorded. *Mung* beans have been known to have origin-

ated from black lentils, hence the genus of both remains the same, that is *vigna mungo*. Various other lentils came to India through spice routes and other trade routes and have become naturalised ever since. The most interesting occurrence of the readiness with which Indians adapted each lentil to suit the palate and gut both, as some of these lentils were not tasty, most of them not easily digestible, some had a very hard seed coat and some were hard to crack.

The hand-operated *chakki* came handy to process the lentils in the most usable form. The traditional domestic *chakki* used to have small wooden pegs to adjust to the size of grain or lentil being milled and if the lentils needed to be split or ground into flour to make *besan* or *sattu*. In many small town homes till about four decades ago, the *besan* or *sattu* used to be made fresh whenever needed, much like we use the mixer or coffee grinder today. There were byproducts of the stone grinding process and those were never wasted. While the husk or bran went to cattle feed, the grits were used to make different types of steamed dumplings or deep fried *pakodas* or the sun dried *badis* that were flavour bombs to be added to curries. While women of the house had to handle all this milling, sorting, winnowing, *badi* making and sun drying and then cooking as well, they found ways to entertain and bond over these chores.

In fact stone grinders and cooking techniques from different regions of the country give a fair idea of how the kitchen gadgets and ways of cooking have evolved with the kind of produce in a specific geographic region. For instance, in the mountain state of Uttarakhand, the variety of lentils and beans is quite huge but most of them are hard to grind and take hours to cook. In



### Pakodas The Snack for All Seasons

The book explores the regional *pakoda* variants that are deep fried, shallow fried and even steamed or poached in water. There are *pakodas* made of lentils, cereals, millets, roots, shoots, leaves and even flowers, some are made of wild foraged herbs and some even medicinal. Such is the rich heritage of Indian cuisine that each geographical region with a specific set of produce has a bunch of special *pakodas* or deep fried foods that are absolutely healthy if made the right way.

The book also offers tips and tricks, methods to make the *pakodas* in healthier way, using the right kind of cooking fats, the appropriate frying temperature, as well as the most suitable utensils to make *pakodas*.

the mountains, high altitude also plays a role in cooking time. The harder the lentils, the more difficult they are to digest. This is also the reason the most popular lentil recipes of Uttarakhand are well adjusted to their hardness, cooking time and digestibility.

Lentil recipes like *Phanu*, *Chainsu*, *Dubka* and *Ras* are elaborate Uttarakhand recipes where the lentils are first roasted and then cooked whole or after grinding them in a stone grinder. These dishes are slow cooked in iron utensils for long hours to make them most nutritious and warming for the locals, where they don't get a lot of produce to cook with. In the mountains, where the lentils and beans are rain fed crops along with some coarse varieties of rice and millets, lentils become the mainstay of nutrition for everyone. Even the seasonal or foraged vegetables are greens are preserved in the form of sun dried lentil cakes or *badis*.

The stone grinders in the southern states are more adapted for the ways the lentils are processed before cooking. To make the lentils digestible and suited for the warm climate, they are soaked and ground into a wet paste before fermenting them in most cases. The stone grinders for wet grinding are in fact a genius design that allows efficient use of manual force to make smooth paste of soaked lentils and even grains and spices etc. For splitting the lentils, there were the *chakki* type stone grinders in southern India in the olden times and that explains the evolution of some of the lentil *vadas* that are made with coarsely ground mixed lentils, initially made with the grits that was a byproduct of splitting the lentils. Even the watery *rasam* and chunky *sambar*, cooked with a lot of vegetables and tamarind, are examples of lentil recipes adapted to suit local ingredients and warmer climate of the south.

Rajasthan and Gujarat use the maximum amount of lentils for the variety of snacks and main course dishes they cook with lentils, majorly the black gram. The recipes from these regions are often rich with fats and spices but very well adjusted to the climate, cooking methods and digestibility.

In modern times, in the last 4 decades to be specific, the electric mixer grinders have revolutionised the way we cook and the per capita consumption of lentils has increased manifold. Of course, the production has also increased, but the ease of grinding the lentils has made it much easier for the home cook. That is one of the reasons why every North Indian family makes *idli* and *dosa* at home now and making the *dal vada* at home is as easy as the *pyaz ke pakode*. Even the South Indian stone grinders have transformed to electrically operated sleek machines and making traditional foods using lentils and grains has become easier for everyone.

My book on *pakodas*, the quintessential snack made mostly with lentils has recipes using many different lentils and even grains, tubers and even fruits. Many of these *pakoda* family snacks are shallow fried and even steamed and that indicates that the traditional recipes have evolved with human nutrition being the central point even if the taste buds ruled to decide the flavours. The book on *pakodas* celebrates the diversity in Indian food with some recipes with wild and foraged greens and even some medicinal *pakoda* recipes that were part of the everyday food repertoire in every household earlier.

The writer is an author, a food and nutrition consultant, and develops recipes and products for the industry. Her book *Pakodas: The Snack for All Seasons* came out in August this year



# FASTING OF A DIFFERENT KIND

Everyone has heard of fasting and dieting. But do you know there is something called skin fasting? Yes, you heard that right!

Skin fasting is a concept which is relatively new and is slowly paving its way into society.

However, for the uninitiated, we bring to you a small guide providing an insight into this practice.

Listed here are a set of do's and don'ts, if you'd like to incorporate it into your skin care regime along with some good ol' doctors' advise, writes ANUSHKA PRADEEP

## WHAT IS SKIN FASTING?

Skin fasting encourages the concept of taking a break from one's usual skin care routine in an effort to provide the skin a break from the excessive skin care product usage. The concept revolves around detoxification of the skin by allowing the skin's natural system to work by temporarily distancing oneself from skin care aides.

The trend toward abstinence and "skin fasting" came into being with an upsurge of multiple products flooding the market. It aims to prevent people from falling trap to the 'new and latets' product available on the shelves.

## HOW TO PRACTICE SKIN FASTING?

Just like regular fasting, skin fasting can be done by simply applying nothing to your face and cleansing it with luke-warm water.



## BENEFITS OF SKIN FASTING

Just like our body, even the skin needs to detox once in a while. And skin fasting is a practice similar to diet restrictions to give your body a break and cleanse from, say food binges.

Skin detox can be helpful for those who use a lot of stimulants like anti-ageing creams, or those who wear too much make-up regularly.

"A slight improvement, however, is advisable to be made into the skin fasting regime, by incorporating the basic essentials of skin care into the fasting practise. One should follow this method by customising the regime based on what suits them best," said Dr Rupa, Consultant Dermatologist, elaborating on the technique.

“There are a set of people for whom, it is mandatory to follow a skin care routine. People who have eczema, acne-prone skin, or sensitive skin in general, have to use certain products to keep their skin healthy. Abstaining from these products even for a couple of days may have adverse effects on their skin. Skin fasting is hence, not suggested for such people”



## THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

"There are a set of people for whom, it is mandatory to follow a skin care routine. People who have eczema, acne-prone skin, or sensitive skin in general, have to use certain products to keep their skin healthy. Abstaining from these products even for a couple of days may have adverse effects on their skin. Skin fasting is hence, not suggested for such people," Dr Rupa adds.

"People with a skin type compatible for skin-fasting can definitely try it as long as they ensure they don't skip on the basic essentials. Basic skin care products, such as cleansers, moisturisers and sunscreens only benefit your skin with regular application and fasting from these basic essentials might do more harm than good," she concludes.

## OTHER BENEFITS

A skin detox lets one know whether they are using the wrong product for their skin type or if they are unknowingly using harsh or drying ingredients. If you distance yourself from the products that aren't good for your skin, you'll see a visible change. The key is to find the right combination of products that can help your skin.

If you're over-exfoliating, skin fasting lets your skin recover.

Our skin produces an oily substance called sebum that helps prevent moisture loss. Cutting out on external products will let the skin neutralise and let sebum take over.

It is to be kept in mind that skin fasting is not a procedure that is to be practised throughout the year. It is done to give your skin some healing time so that you can restart using skin-care products as needed.



# SEVEN simple tips for winter hair care

## HERE ARE SOME EASY STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO MAINTAIN YOUR GORGEOUS LOCKS THIS COLD SEASON:

- \* **KEEP SHAMPOOING TO THE MINIMUM**  
Chemical shampoos are notorious for consuming essential natural oils from your scalp. And your hair is going to need all the oil it can get this winter season. First things first, switch to shampoos or shampoo bars that don't have parabens or sulfates that exhaust all-natural oils from your scalp. Shampoo your hair only once or twice a week. And if you are prone to greasy hair and need to shampoo more often, then worry not as all-natural shampoos will keep your scalp safe.
- \* **OIL 'EM BEFORE YOU WASH 'EM**  
Oiling hair is a must in most Indian households. But this time, warm your hair oil and massage the scalp well. Leave it in overnight. Not only will the warm oil nourish your scalp but also give your hair a gorgeous smooth texture.
- \* **NEVER FORGET THE CONDITIONER**  
Your hair is going to need it the most during the cold days and freezing nights. Every time you shampoo this winter season, apply conditioner from the mid-length to the tips. Keep it on for a couple of minutes before washing it off. Pat dry your hair and voila! Frizz-free, silky soft hair!
- \* **CONTROL THE TEMPERATURE THIS WINTER SEASON**  
We know, we know. Hot showers are the best and especially in winters, they are irresistible. But the steaming hot water will strip all-natural oils from your scalp and skin. Take warm baths, use lukewarm water and avoid super hot showers as far as possible.
- \* **NO HEAT STYLING EITHER**  
While we are on the topic of hot showers, don't heat-style your hair either. Frequent blow-drying, straightening or curling damages your hair and make them brittle. While you need to control excessive styling all year round, winters make your hair especially vulnerable and so, you need to switch off the hair appliances. Having said that, stepping outside the home with wet hair is also a bad idea. Pat hair with a soft towel and air dry them before heading out.
- \* **KEEP DANDRUFF AWAY THIS WINTER SEASON**  
Winter hats are in! Not only are they fashionable, but they'll also protect your hair from pollution and dust that is likely to settle as the temperatures drop. But with that, there's also the chances of scalp sweat, itchy head and ugh, dandruff! But make sure you keep your scalp free from the flakes
- \* **NOT JUST YOUR HAIR, YOU NEED TO KEEP HYDRATED TOO!**  
It's not just your hair that needs to stay hydrated this winter season. You need to too. Unlike summers, it's easy to forget drinking water or juices in the cold months. But make it a point to stay hydrated because your dehydration will reflect on your hair too! Keep a bottle of water or juice on your desk and sip regularly.
- \* **BONUS TIPS:**  
"Whether you have long or short hair, winter weather can make the ends of your hair dry and brittle. Regular trims will keep your hair in good condition and reduce the chance of split ends. Take the extra time to blow-dry your hair or let it dry naturally before going outside. In cold weather, your hair will take a long time to dry - and if your hair freezes, you risk breakage," advices Head and Shoulders regarding winter hair care.

— Source: The Better India; Head and Shoulders

**S**wearer weather is here! T's the season of snuggling into warm knitwear, feet tucked into soft sock, a steamy cup of coffee or tea. But T's also a season of diligent winter skin-care and haircare routines. Winter is here and it is most likely to result in frail, dehydrated, weak-looking hair often accompanied by hair loss. Fortunately, these problems can be kept at bay through simple precautionary measures.



# Prathi Roju....

## A SHORT-LIVED 'PANDAGA'

K RAMYA SREE

**P**rathi Roju *Pandaga* is a simple non-fuzzy film filled with laughter and a bag full of other emotions which doesn't go in sync with each other. The film starts with Sai (Sai Dharam Tej), son of Rao Ramesh and grandson of Satya Raj, flying to India after hearing the news that his grandfather has lung cancer. Since Satya Raj cannot survive for more than five weeks, Sai wants to make the last few days a *pandaga* for his grandfather, hence the title. The sons and daughter of Satya Raj are NRIs and do not want to fly down to India leaving their work. Sai, meanwhile, gets introduced to Angel Aarna (Raashi Khanna), his grandfather's best-friend's granddaughter, whom he wants Sai to tie the knot with. From here on the film revolves around how Sai's family members fly down

to India and wait for Satya Raj's death so that they can perform his last rites and return to their routine life. This is a routine family drama a la *Shatamanabhavati*, where they want the elderly to spend time with their busy NRI kids. The humour in the film is an added bonus without which the film would've been a disaster as it has a pretty boring storyline. Speaking of performances, let's begin with Sai. This is a comeback trail for him as his last didn't do well at the box office. His makeover has helped the film and his acting is okay during the clichéd comic scenes, but when it comes to showing emotions, he falls flat. There were rumours that Sai would sport a 6-pack abs in the film. That could have been photoshopped as he still has a long way to go. Satya Raj's over the top acting was not in sync with Sai's weak emotional scenes. Rao Ramesh has delivered a good perfor-



**Cast:** Sai Dharam Tej, Rashi Khanna, Sathyaraj, Rao Ramesh

**Rating:** 3 stars

mance as a possessive father. Raashi Khanna, who plays a social media fanatic, has done a fairly good job and the comedy revolving around her scenes arte a plus point. Like any other big film, even here, Raashi's character feels like it was used just to up the glamour quotient. Hari Teja deserves a special mention for playing the character of Kukatapally Canteen owner. Apart from the aforementioned actors, the film has a slew of other characters like Naresh, Suhas, Murali Sharma and Ajay. Speaking of the direction, script and screenplay, Maruthi fails to deliver a good story. The film could've had a better ending or at least a different message. He opts for the tried and tested emotional family drama as one gets to know where the film is headed. He is good with the comic aspects through Angel Aarna's character and others. The comedy despite providing relief from the

bland script is a hit and miss. Then there are a few plugs in the screenplay. Satya Raj who will die in five weeks is all chirpy and happy except for the climax scenes. The movie fails to connect with the audience. At no point does one feel bad about the old man or get emotional. Speaking of music, Thaman does a better job than his previous film, *Venky Mama*, where the music turned out to be a minus for the film. Although it had some unnecessary songs, the composition is better than what it was earlier. **VERDICT:** *Prathi Roju Pandaga* fails to impress in terms of emotions. Predictable, unflattering storyline might not leave you thrilled as you know what's going to happen next. The film has a messy and random ending. This film is a miscalculation from the very reliable Maruthi.



## Dabangg 3: HAS EVERYTHING HARDCORE CHULBUL FANS WANT

**A**t one level, it is easy reviewing *Dabangg 3*. It has everything the hardcore Chulbul fans want, so it's a great film. For a 160-minute celebration of recycled kitsch that is vying to be the year's biggest blockbuster, simply pleasing Salman Khan's hardcore fan base may not be enough — especially when there is a killing to be made in the Christmas season against a rumoured 90-crore budget. So, *Dabangg 3* opens well beyond the superstar's familiar turf, in three languages — Tamil, Telugu, and Kannada — besides the original Hindi version. That last bit is important to understand how saleability quotient drives the efforts of the makers to craft a commercially profitable product rather than mainstream cinema with some amount of originality. This is Salman's show all the way, but the villain is a Kannada superstar (Kichcha Sudeep). Calling the shots is Prabhudeva, actor-filmmaker who holds considerable sway in Tamil and Telugu markets. As Bollywood's mightiest Khan goes down South to explore fresh box office, this new sequel tries rehashing the trademark

*Dabangg* spirit that has always revealed a massive hangover of the vintage *Madras Cut* movie. This time, Salman and company show us Chulbul Pandey's life before the first film, pushing a prequel text of sorts in the first half before tying the loose ends in the second. It gives us a back story of Chulbul tracing his romance of the past, marking the debut of actress Saiee Manjrekar in what seems like an extended cameo and little else. Having Salman romance a much-younger Saiee looks like a mere ploy to let him revisit all that worked in the first *Dabangg*. The chemistry for one — across those smalltown marketplace sets in the song *Naina lade* — would hark back to what he did with Sonakshi Sinha's Rajjo in the first film (remember *Tere mast mast do nain?*). Much of the rom-com situations between Salman and Saiee, as well as the melodrama, are also repeats of winning scenes we have seen before. Long before the film hits intermission mark, you realise this truth: The instruction given to Prabhudeva was obviously clear — churn out a sequel that's a rerun of the first two films, in terms of romance, violence, humour and drama ped-

dled. It has to be bigger and glossier, if not as stylish. The *Dabangg* flicks follow a classic narrative structure of commercial Indian cinema. The hero, an invincible do-gooder, after initial mooning about with the heroine (and a possible minor build-up conflict with the villain), will prepare for a second half that is heavy with action and retribution. Chulbul's adventure in this film does not waver. The film, incidentally written by Salman, retains every formula, as Chulbul's enmity with bad man Balli Singh (Sudeep) finds its roots in the back story of the first half, before being resolved by the hero with typical violent elan in the climax. Given that most of what happens just seems to be an amped-up repeat of the past two films, Salman must be hoping the seven-year gap between the last film and this one has whetted audience appetite — that fans are game to watch familiar Chulbul Pandey antics all over again. To be fair, Salman is in his elements, and that's what wholly drives this film. If Bollywood ever had a comic action hero worth his smoking barrels, it has to be the maverick

**CAST:** Salman Khan, Sonakshi Sinha, Saiee Manjrekar, Kichcha Sudeep; **DIRECTION:** Prabhudeva; **Rating:** 3 stars

Chulbul Pandey. With *Dabangg 3*, the superstar is clearly trying to raise Chulbul's stature as an invincible superhero a few notches higher. He is a natural winner in the fight sequences (personally, I felt the action scenes were Chulbul's highlights in the film). He clearly continues to relish spewing those witty oneliners, too. But he looks fatigued in the drama and romance scenes. Salman's flamboyance as Chulbul the supercop, however, fails to hide the fact that you are essentially paying to watch the same film for the third time. Hardcore fans may not complain, because Chulbul Pandey's world is still woven around their hero. You feel sorry for poor Rajjo, though. In a film where various sharp objects play a major role in the killings, the only action Sonakshi Sinha gets with a knife is chopping vegetables in the kitchen.

## Ruler: STRICTLY FOR FANS

**B**alakrishna has believed the magic of KS Ravi Kumar yet another time with his latest flick *Ruler*. The fans had high expectations on the Nandamuri actor's latest one as his two-part biopic on his father tanked at the box office. With *Jaisimha*'s hit, Balakrishna gambled big by giving another chance to KSRK. Trailer of the film showing Balayya donning multiple get-ups has increased curiosity among the audience to watch the film. Did the movie meet the expectations it created? Let's find out. The film begins with Sarojini Naidu (Jayasudha) meeting an injured stranger, who suffered multiple stab wounds. The next minute, the two are in the ICU with Sarojini facing a serious threat to her life. But when someone attempts to kill her, the stranger miraculously wakes up from his coma and saves her. Sarojini is so grateful that she raises him as her own son and makes him the chairman of her group of companies and that stranger. Balayya who doesn't remember his past becomes Arjun Prasad, son of multimillionaire Sarojini Naidu and has a lavish life travelling in choppers and romancing Harika (Sonal Chauhan), the chairman of a rival company. Soon after Arjun remembers his past that he was a dare devil cop before he lost his memory and he goes on to take revenge from his enemies.

Neither the outfits nor the make-up went well and Balayya has to reconsider doing such roles again. There is nothing in the movie for Vedhika and Sonal performance-wise except for adding some glamour quotient. Despite less screen time, Bhoomika has a more powerful role. Prakash Raj and Jaya Sudha play their roles with conviction as usual. KS Ravikumar has chosen a very bad storyline which would've worked some 15 years ago. The film has no novelty or surprise value. Although the first half of the film can be watched once for the sake of Balakrishna, the second half puts one to sleep with tried and tested drama scenes, slow narration and cli-

max plays a spoilsport. Music was also drab in the film that makes you feel 'why are we even watching this?' — *PNS*. **VERDICT:** Outdated storyline, tried and tested drama scenes, slow narration, non-practical action scenes, unflattering makeover of Balakrishna, and the list goes on.... makes the film nothing but a huge disappointment. **CAST:** Balakrishna, Balakrishna and more Balakrishna **Rating:** 1.5/5 stars



Speaking of performances, *Ruler* is a one-man show. Balayya uses his standard dialogue delivery style, cringe-worthy dance moves with heroines, unpractical action scenes. One of the character Balakrishna dons, Dharma, didn't at all



EVERYTHING HAS ITS WONDERS,  
EVEN DARKNESS AND SILENCE, AND  
I LEARN, WHATEVER STATE I MAY BE  
IN, THEREIN TO BE CONTENT  
— HELEN KELLER

**YOUR  
WEEK  
AHEAD**

MADHU KOTIYA



**ARIES** March 21-April 19

Health remains good but you still need to be vigilant. Maintain a positive mind-set and things will come easily to you. In professional life, your talent will help you distance yourself from difficulties and you will feel more optimistic than usual. Work wise, you will obtain the confidence you have always dreamt of. New opportunities in terms of a new venture or projects are indicated. For a few of the Arians, you will decide to leave a job that is no longer working for your betterment. It is a great time for socialising because of your increased popularity and charisma. You are likely to have an open and honest communication with your partner. The discussions you have now will be of a serious nature.

**Lucky number** 21  
**Lucky colour** Peach  
**Lucky day** Tuesday



**LEO** July 23-Aug 22

Health remains good this week. Those of you with a persisting health issue, share your health concerns with others. You may find some solution to your problem. It is a very positive new beginning, especially, on the work front. If you have had a difficult time in the recent past, then know that things are likely to get better very soon. The new possibilities in this week will escalate your chance of making new discoveries and attracting new admirers. Some of you may expect a good news of promotion. In the field of romance, you will probably want to nurture and protect your partner. Most of all you will want to give them kindness, love and affection. Someone will call you out of the blue or you will plan a reunion with a lover or an admirer.

**Lucky number** 31  
**Lucky colour** Red  
**Lucky day** Wednesday



**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

Your health will show improvement. This week you will find yourself in a more psychic and intuitive phase, so it is important that you trust your instincts. At work, your mind is likely to be very active. Make sure to communicate your thoughts to the others. Fine tune your goals and make clear plans and strategies to attain your objectives. This is a good time to discuss your plans with the others, because you will get good feedback and support. There is a possibility that you may become a victim of confusion. This might lead to insecurity. Just keep in mind that the bad time shall pass. Expect a slight delay in your travel plans. Romance is blooming. You are likely to take your relationship to the next level. Those who are single may have to wait for some more time.

**Lucky number** 20  
**Lucky colour** Sky Blue  
**Lucky day** Friday



**TAURUS** April 20-May 20

This week your health will be at its best. Despite your busy schedule, you will take time out to relax and rejuvenate. If suffering from health problems, then it is likely that you will find a way to your recovery. The cards indicate that the people around you will appreciate you and your efforts, and notice the quality of your work. Keep doing what you are doing as you are on the right track. You will have a lot of luck in investments. Property dealings are likely to be resolved. This week will bring peace and harmony to your life. This is a great time to relax with loved ones or party with friends. Your loving mood will make you more attractive than usual. Studies and exams should go well, especially in technical areas like the sciences, computers and mathematics.

**Lucky number** 10  
**Lucky colour** Camel brown  
**Lucky day** Sunday



**VIRGO** Aug 23-Sep 22

After a bad health phase, this week brings you a big relief in terms of positive health. You will be able to revive the inner child like energy and will be active the entire week. On the professional front, you will be able to fulfill your long term ambition this week. Whatever you put your mind to should lead to a lasting results. People around would look up to you for a sound advice. You need to have a profound vision and a vigilant analysis of all the plans and strategies which will enable you to move towards success. Socialising and your love life will benefit from extra charisma and intellectual attractiveness. You may find yourself taking care of family matters such as insurances and wills. You can be confident about making commitments.

**Lucky number** 13  
**Lucky colour** Turquoise  
**Lucky day** Friday



**CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19

This week brings quick thinking, decisiveness and a influential communication style. It is an apt time for debates, asking for favours and public speaking. You can expect positive reactions and valuable assistance to your propositions. The forceful nature of your communication makes it a perfect time to defend yourself and your loved ones. Those in academics, this is a good time for studying and appearing for exams. Good concentration and attention to detail means you will not make mistakes. This is also a good time to make important decisions, conduct negotiations and business dealings. Your romance appears to be a little disturbed this week. Try to keep a two-way communication with your partner to avoid any misunderstandings.

**Lucky number** 30  
**Lucky colour** Green  
**Lucky day** Thursday



**GEMINI** May 21-June 20

Things will get better for those who are facing ailments. On the work front, your innovative spirit will help you expand your horizons and attain new goals. Later this week, you can expect an exciting news. Stimulating conversations will lead to a business deal. Some of you may face competition at work. Keep a watchful eye as someone will try to frame you at work for something serious. This is a good time to be with your partner, friends and family. You will have an enjoyable time going to parties, places of relaxation, entertainment and amusement. New friendships would be formed or a significant new romance may begin. Your new charm will fetch you popularity, and win over dates for you. Romance is in the air.

**Lucky number** 12  
**Lucky colour** White  
**Lucky day** Monday



**LIBRA** Sep 23-Oct 22

This week your health will be good. Try not to get into ego conflicts and retreat to a safe place where you can develop your creative, spiritual and generous nature. You will be smart and optimistic at work and accomplish all your incomplete tasks. You can expect some exciting opportunities coming your way later this week. Wait for some news on domestic front will make you feel frustrated. Love life looks satisfying. You will maintain harmony in your relationships and will have a greater ability to express your love and affection towards your partner. Travelling to far off destination to meet someone is on the cards. Those who are considering investments, must think and discuss with those close to you before taking any action.

**Lucky number** 11  
**Lucky colour** Pink  
**Lucky day** Monday



**AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

You will enjoy a good health. Continue with your meditation and yoga routine, as it will keep you connected to your soul. Those dealing with health issues, need to get a bit serious and take proper treatment. Your ability of quick thinking and determination will make this week an apt time to prepare long term plan on work front. Networking with some promising contacts will allow you to make a change. You will have a better mental energy and concentration, and this will help you succeed in studies or researches. Do not worry about taking risks, as this week, luck is in your favour. You can expect some exciting news in your love life. You are likely postpone your travel plans to another day.

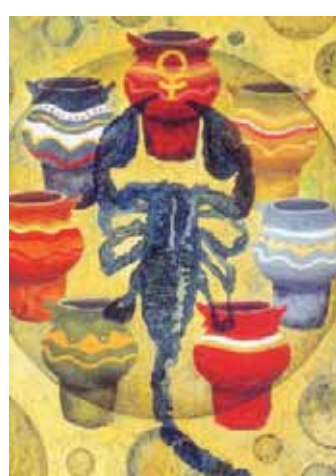
**Lucky number** 14  
**Lucky colour** Brown  
**Lucky day** Wednesday



**CANCER** June 21-July 22

Be careful while exercising as you might suffer an injury or sprain. At work, you will be professional and follow the company policies. Travel due to business commitments is on the cards. On this trip, you are likely to make new friends and admirers. You will have a lot of work on your plate. Dedication towards task is important, but over stressing yourself may prove counterproductive. Do not hesitate to ask for help, if needed. On your personal front, the week indicates love, harmony and friendship. This is a good time to relax and have fun with loved ones. Your loving and friendly mood will make you popular. This is an excellent time for dating because your charm and beauty will attract genuine, honest love.

**Lucky number** 22  
**Lucky colour** Grey  
**Lucky day** Friday



**SCORPIO** Oct 23-Nov 21

Continue with your daily exercise or yoga routine. If you have not yet started, then start fresh now. You will feel driven to succeed at something with your strong sense of purpose and initiative. With the immense amount of courage and fighting spirit, you face all the challenges without any frown. This week you are able to finish a lot of work in a short period of time. It is a favourable time for business matters and negotiations. Financial situations are not good, so avoid spending lavishly. You may find yourself to be more emotional and sensitive than usual. This is a great time to talk about relationship issues because you will be in touch with your true feelings. You will know how people are feeling and will be more sympathetic and nurturing than normal.

**Lucky number** 10  
**Lucky colour** Silver  
**Lucky day** Saturday



**PISCES** Feb 19-March 20

Your emotional well-being will decide the state of your health. It is important that you assess your feelings. Channelise your energy in the right track and you will find yourself in the pink of health. In your professional life, you are clear about your goals and what you have to do to achieve those goals. A stimulating time, filled with opportunities, puts your determination and ambition a notch higher. Business dealings and negotiations are favoured, especially for long-term investments and real estate. This is the right time to make long term strategies. The cards indicate a sharp focus on your relationship. Be sensitive and passionate towards your partner. A short trip will prove beneficial because you will meet a new admirer, who shares the same mind-set.

**Lucky number** 28  
**Lucky colour** Orange  
**Lucky day** Tuesday

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**ASTROTURF**  
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

# No shortcuts to fixing problems

A couple of months back someone called me to check on longevity prospects of one of his friends he had brought seeking astrological advice. "Why?" I questioned. "His kidney is malfunctioning and has to undergo dialysis twice a week." He answered. I immediately recalled that the man in question had come to me a couple of years back with two straight questions: "Sir, I am a lawyer by profession. Many astrologers said that I am a genius. Yet, every now and then, my career goes for a toss. I have heard a lot about you. Kindly perform a puja that saves me from such an ordeal and ensures success. Also, some astrologers have warned me that I may face serious health issues close to 45 years of age. Please do conduct puja that would help me build my immunity level and save it from failing ever. Don't worry about the cost."

Well, I agree that you are extraordinarily intelligent, with very good communicative skills. But that alone would not suffice. You need to look within, figure out inherent habits and attitudes that stand in way of your positives from blooming out in full. Acknowledge and address them without further loss of

time. I am afraid, no puja mediated by a pundit can penetrate your inner mind space to let you rise above your limitations. Remember, there is no quick fix solution to problems of mind genesis, as habits die hard. But you can help yourself by exercising freewill option, which enjoins upon you with the capacity to guide your actions by choice and discrimination. Instead of expecting external intervention, better take charge of yourself, and put in conscious efforts to make necessary amends. In terms of your health, better consult a doctor and have regular health check-up. Regulate your food. Do necessary physical exercise. Here again, it is difficult to digest that trying to appease some hypothetical God existent in the higher realms of cosmos, could help change your physiological conditions.

I could make out that with his hardened attitude and delusional mind, he won't easily digest my advisory. Later, I was given to understand that he went after so called sorcerers and got tantric pujas conducted. He also engaged pundits and got many pujas done. But to what effect? Let us now look at his astrological pointers.



Towards the positive, wisdom-oriented Jupiter conjunct intellectually ordained Uranus, extends beneficial aid to intellectually signifying Mercury. This planetary alignment is indicative of his extraordinary talent. He may have clarity in vision and thought over such subjects he pays attention, which he could present with exactitude because of his excellent communicative ability.

All this gets compromised because of many negative inherent traits. The first marker is his lagna sign Aries. That points to his aggressive, impulsive, irritable, hot headed, abrasive, intolerant, and impatient nature. He wishes to live in a demanding mode, often to his whims and fancies. He may jump into action without applying proper forethought, and with obvious consequences. Lagna lord Mars in the 8th house identified with difficulties, read together with lagna sub-lord Venus occupying the 12th house, makes him vulnerable to self-undoing acts. So, he remains susceptible to become a victim of his own making. Lagna lord Mars, identity-signifying the Sun, and mind-signifying Moon, all placed in fixed signs accounts for his hardened attitude. Lagna lord Mars conjunct Neptune and also square to both the Sun and Moon makes him temperamental.

Both the luminaries the Sun and Moon locked in adverse formation to mischievous Neptune have him stuck in his self-delusional beliefs and perceptions, and not open to listening or counsel. The Sun placed adverse to Venus makes him emotionally too much sensitive and touchy. He may get over exercised even on trivial issues, over which he may keep unnecessarily mulling for long. Venus ill-placed to Neptune tempts him to get rich quick even if it means getting into murky deals, which may often tell upon his reputation.

In terms of health, the 6th sub-lord Saturn in the 12th occupying the nakshatra owned by Mercury the 6th lord makes him vulnerable to long drawn serious health issues, calling for medical intervention. The Sun distanced from Venus by 45 degrees made him vulnerable to kidney related issues around that age, and so it happened with him. But because of his delusional perception, he failed to take pre-emptive measures. The result is there to see.

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# AN IPS OFFICER WITH IRON FIST

From starting her career in the Indian Forest Service and making a quick switch to IPS, Shikha Goel has done many things to move out of her comfort zone. She talks to **NAVEEN KUMAR** about how she joined the police force, being the only lady IPS officer in Jammu and Kashmir, fighting Naxalism in the erstwhile united AP and much more.

## RAPID-FIRE

- Most proud of:** Being able to live by my values
- Best advice for an aspirant:** You might not be able to move the earth. But little changes make a lot of difference.
- Biggest strength:** Family support and self-motivation.
- Weapon of choice:** The Glock pistol
- Fav color:** Blue and green
- What scares me the most:** Cats!
- Three words that describe me:** Innocent, strong will power and stubborn.
- Favorite countries traveled so far:** Had an amazing time in Scotland and Netherlands.
- Last movie watched:** *Bala*
- Biggest addition:** In general, I would say music but also bags and footwear.
- Fav dish:** Always *maa ke haath ka khana*. Comfort food is *rajma chawal* and chocolates.

**B**orn and brought up in Delhi in a sheltered family, Shikha Goel, who did her M Phil from Delhi University, joined the Indian Forest Service in 1995, and moved to the Indian Police Service three months later.

### Moving out of the comfort zone

I was known to be an introvert and an indoor kid throughout my childhood as the upbringing was quite sheltered. I initially chose to be in the Indian Forest Service as it was more in line with my interests back then and the fact that I was a Botany student. However, I thought I must get out of my comfort zone and took up the challenge of becoming an IPS officer. It was a very conscious decision and introduced me to a life I never imagined.

### J&K stint boosted my confidence

Post my training in Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration in Mussoorie for a foundation course as an IPS officer, I got Jammu and Kashmir as my first posting. I chose police as my profession for the challenges it offered. It was the first time I moved out of home and the training itself made me step outside my comfort zone. It gave me a lot of confidence and taught me how to make my own decisions. Though the two and a half years of my tenure there during the late '90s was filled with tense moments, I always cherish how my team and people made me feel comfortable.

### Dad's words inspired me to choose IPS

My father, S.K. Goel, was a scientist at IARI (Indian Agricultural Research Institute) and has been supportive of all my decisions. I decided to become an IPS officer because of him. He was

excited to learn that I was making the switch from forestry to policing. 'You will surely shine, go ahead' were his words that helped me make the decision. I have three siblings — brothers, Prachur and Pramuch and sister Deepa Rastogi.

### Investigation is thrilling

The beauty of this job is that, unlike in other professions, nobody and nothing can prepare you for what's coming. Each step teaches you something new and pushes you to take a call on your own. Policing is a lot about common sense and I love the investigative part of the job as it's thrilling. Also, that is the core of the job. We derive most of the power and zeal from the investigation. It was thrilling to be in different unimaginable situations. Be it bandobast, regular crime, team management, or dealing with staff to keep them motivated, it's always a challenge.

### Marrying college sweetheart

My husband, Vijay Kumar, who is currently with the Intelligence Bureau, and I studied together at Delhi University. Ours was a love marriage. He first asked me out and I obviously said 'no'. But he was persistent and I accepted his proposal eventually. We dated for a while before telling our parents about us. My side of the family had an issue with the relationship, but eventually accepted him. We got married in 1997 and are blessed with a son and daughter, Tavashya and Yutika.

each other's achievements. We believe in collaborative partnership rather than a competitive one.

### If not IPS, I would've chosen teaching

We can achieve anything provided we set our mind on it. All you need is willpower and perseverance to go ahead. I believe that good education and financial independence are a must for every girl, no matter what financial background they come from. You don't know what life has in store for you and these two things will boost your confidence and change your personality. It is also important to have a Plan-B in life, just in case. For me, the Plan-B would be to get into teaching and put my Master's degree to good use.

### Winning best contingent prize

Patriotism is not something you carry on your sleeve, it's a discipline. If you follow the rules and regulations, abide by the law of the land and maintain self-discipline, the sense of responsibility you have for everything you do qualifies as patriotism. In 2016, while I was on deputation with the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), I oversaw the training of its contingent that took part in the Republic Day parade. That year, we won a prize for being the best contingent among all. As soon as the boys marched, I knew we were going to win. I was sitting amongst the audience when the march began and it was simply inspiring to receive the accolades that followed immediately. It made me nostalgic about the first time I went to see the parade at Rajpath in Delhi. I was about 11-years-old and the weather was bad that day — extremely cold and rain. But seeing the contingents march, we completely forgot about the weather.



With husband Vijay Kumar, son Tavashya and daughter Yutika

### Always need music around me

My biggest stress-buster would be hugging my children before going to bed. The other things I do to unwind include reading, listening to music and watching movies. I tend to select light-hearted comedy movies over the strong, suspense/crime thrillers since it is in contrast with my profession. Also, I always need music around me whether I'm in the car or at home.

### Arresting my senior officer

While I was stationed in Jammu and Kashmir, I had to arrest my senior and he ended up getting a life term. Cases like these taught me to push my boundaries. Only when one is put in a challenging spot do they push their boundaries and discover their true potential. Another important case was when I was the DCP, North Zone, and diamonds worth several crores were recovered. It was the doing of an inter-state gang and the property was distributed at various places. A lot of planning and strategising went into their recovery. In my earlier days, I had even roughed up an eve-teaser with a lathi, which is probably one of the few times I beat someone up.

Three-year-old Shikha



“I chose police as my profession as it was in sync with the life I had lived until then and for the challenge it offered. It was the first time I moved out of home and the training itself made me step outside my comfort zone. It gave me a lot of confidence and taught me how to make my own decisions”



With one of her school friends (left)



With parents



**Things to change about myself:** I'm very sensitive and get easily hurt. Want to change that and also try to stop bothering what others think.

**The toughest thing about being a cop:** Keeping your sensitivity and empathy intact while dealing with negativity day in and out.

**If given a chance, would like to go to:** Would love to see the Northern Lights and go to Spain.

**Most illegal thing ever done:** Stealing and eating supari when I was 10 years old.

**Most prized possession:** My kids.

**Any regrets:** Regret not learning any artistic skills.

**What best describes me:** I'm a dreamer. I firmly believe that if we work towards our dreams, they come true. Dreams are realities in waiting.

**Favorite books:** *Gone with the wind*, *Fountainhead*, PG Wodehouse series and was recently introduced to the Harry Potter series by my daughter.

**Cherished time:** The time spent at Forest Academy, Dehradun. It was the first time I was out of the nest and found my wings.

**Best qualities about myself:** Honesty, humility and resilience.